



Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families 2011

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Activities in State Government Related to Youth and Families provides a synopsis of in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches initiatives in the following subject areas:

**COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES
CHILD WELFARE
KINSHIP CARE, ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE
CHILD CARE
PUBLIC SAFETY
REENTRY
JUVENILE JUSTICE
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
MENTAL HEALTH
EDUCATION
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES**

Activities is updated throughout the study year.

The Commission extends its appreciation to staff members in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches who lend their invaluable assistance in providing information on an on-going basis. Material is gleaned for inclusion from a variety of direct and indirect sources.

Commission staff welcomes comments at any time and invites submission of updates or corrections.

GENERAL

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Governor's Office	<p>The Council on Virginia's Future is established by Code as an advisory council in the executive branch. The purpose of the 18-member Council is to advise the Governor and General Assembly on the implementation of the Roadmap for Virginia's Future as part of the larger state budgeting process. The Council was enacted in 2003 to develop a vision and long-term goals for Virginia's future. It was also tasked with developing a performance leadership and accountability system for state government that aligns with and supports achievement of the vision.</p> <p>Its mandated purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a long-term focus on high-priority issues; • create an environment for improved policy and budget decision-making; • increase government accountability and transparency; • improve government performance; and • engage citizens in dialogue about Virginia's future. <p>The Council regularly reviews progress on implementation of the Roadmap process and updates the Roadmap as needed.</p> <p>To facilitate assessment, it has developed as its premier initiative Virginia Performs, a performance leadership and accountability system whose most public face is the website, Virginia Performs. This "scorecard" for Virginia aligns agency-level outcomes with broader statewide goals for the Economy, Education, Health & Family, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Transportation, Government & Citizens. Three new indicators have been recently added: energy, civic engagement, and government operations.</p> <p>There are eight legislative members and ten non-legislative members. General Assembly membership includes the Senate President Pro Tempore, the House Speaker, the Senate and House Majority and Minority Leaders, and chairs of the money committees. Other Council members include Cabinet staff and leaders from the private sector. The Governor serves as chair.</p> <p>The Council is assisted by the Department of Planning and Budget, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Auditor of Public Accounts, and the money committees.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Senator Miller, as Senate Finance Committee member, serves on the Council.</p>	<p>Executive Director Jane Kusiak presented in January 2011 to the Virginia Workforce Council, highlighting the critical relationship between educational attainment and workforce quality. Of special interest: data comparing Virginia both regionally and nationally for income and education levels.</p> <p>The Council continues to determine what opportunities exist for fostering greater cooperation among Virginia's regions, with the ultimate aim of improving regional economic competitiveness. A report with the initial study's conclusions and potential recommendations will be released in April 2011.</p> <p>The Code requires the Council to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Council no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The Council's 2010 <i>Virginia Report</i> is available at http://www.future.virginia.gov.</p> <p>The Virginia Performs website integrates access to all measures and allows users to quickly view the complete listing for each category.</p> <p>Persons wishing to receive quarterly newsletters by email can be added to the listserve at http://www.future.virginia.gov/newsletterSignup.php.</p>
Governor's Office	<p>A Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring was established in January 2010 by Executive Order 2 for the purpose of conducting a thorough review of Virginia state government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for creating efficiencies in state government, including streamlining, consolidating, or eliminating redundant and unnecessary agency services, governing bodies, regulations and programs; • Explore innovative ways to deliver state services at the lowest cost and best value to Virginia taxpayers; • Seek out means to more effectively and efficiently perform core state functions, including potential privatization of government operations where appropriate, and restore focus on core mission oriented service; and • Examine ways for state government to be more transparent, user friendly and accountable to the citizens of the Commonwealth. <p>The Commission is comprised of eight legislative members and up to 20 citizen members representing finance, planning, business and government. The Secretaries of Administration and Finance, and the Council on Virginia's Future's Vice Chair, serve as ex officio, non-voting members.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Delegate Brink serves on the Commission.</p>	<p>On June 4, 2010, the first full meeting of the Commission was streamed live to the public on both the Governor's website – www.governor.virginia.gov – and the Reform Commission's website – www.reform.virginia.gov.</p> <p>The Commission's April 12, 2011 meeting included a ceremonial bill signing with Governor McDonnell. Additional meetings will be scheduled throughout the year.</p>

GENERAL (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Criminal Justice Services/Office of the Attorney General	<p>The Office of the Attorney General (OAG), in partnership with the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Virginia's Departments of Alcohol and Beverage Control, Criminal Justice Services, Education, Health, and Juvenile Justice, has developed training in the new law-related education program for middle and high school students, Virginia Rules. The lessons educate young Virginians about the law and help them develop skills needed to make sound decisions, to avoid breaking laws, and to become active citizens of their schools and communities.</p> <p>Training is provided to teachers, school administrators, school resource officers (SROs), school security officers (SSOs) serving the middle and high school environments, and other interested professionals working both in the field and in schools.</p> <p>In addition, Virginia Rules offers a comprehensive website with law-related resources and tools for use by students, parents, and instructors. From the website, instructors can access and download lessons with student worksheets, student topical handouts, and supplemental materials.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has collaborated with the OAG in 2011 to provide four Advanced School Resource Office and School Administrator Training sessions. These events address current school safety issues, in particular the latest published opinions on search and seizure of electronic devices, school safety resources, school-police partnership challenges, and information on response to individuals on the autism spectrum. In March 2011, sessions were held in Prince George County and Roanoke. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for Newport News (April 5) and Manassas (April 7).</p> <p>2010 training sessions were offered in Manassas, Central Shenandoah, Southwest Virginia and Roanoke.</p> <p>In addition to on-site training, user-specific educational portals are available for use by students and parents at www.virginiarules.com.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>The State Executive Council's (SEC) purpose is to assure collaborative programmatic policy development, fiscal policy development and administrative oversight for the efficient and effective provision of child centered, family focused and community based services to eligible emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families in the least restrictive, appropriate environment. Further, the SEC assures that the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries are well-informed in matters related to these areas. Two members of the General Assembly serve on the Council.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The SEC is required by Code to biennially publish and disseminate to the General Assembly and Virginia's Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) a biennial progress report on comprehensive services for children, youth and families and a plan for such services for the succeeding biennium. The report is required in odd-numbered years, thus the next report is due in December 2011.</p> <p>At its January 10, 2011 meeting, the Council received reports from the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) Executive Director and the Special Advisor for Children's Systems Services Transformation. Other items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) Report on the Pittsylvania County CSA Program; • Department of Education/CSA Policy Clarification; and • 2011 Governor's Proposed CSA Budget Amendments. <p>The March 31, 2011 meeting was held at Elk Hill Farm, Goochland. Agenda items included discussion of 2011 General Assembly legislative and budget initiatives, as well as the Commission on Youth request from its 2010 Study of Juvenile Offender Reentry.</p> <p>SEC meetings, which are scheduled by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, are held at least quarterly. Upcoming meetings are June 23, September 15 and December 15. Agendas and minutes for all meetings are available at www.csa.state.va.us.</p> <p>The SEC is holding an all-day retreat in Richmond on May 23, 2011. Stakeholders with special interests/expertise have been invited to participate.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>The State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) was established to better serve the needs of troubled and at-risk youth and their families by advising the State Executive Council (SEC), managing cooperative efforts at the state level and providing support to community efforts. The team is appointed by and responsible to the SEC.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>At the March 3, 2011 meeting, Commission on Youth staff presented on the newly-released <i>Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs, 4th Edition</i>. Other agenda items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICC Guidelines; • Special Education Mandate – Policy and Guidelines; and • 2011 General Assembly legislative and budget initiatives. <p>The SLAT met May 5 to discuss the development of guidelines and training for non-educational supportive services; Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) budget language; and the FY10 CSA Critical Services Gaps Survey Report.</p> <p>Additional 2011 meetings are scheduled for July 7, September 1, and November 3. Agendas and minutes for all meetings are available at www.csa.state.va.us.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Intensive Care Coordination</p> <p>Pursuant to § 2.2-2648 of the Code of Virginia the State Executive Council (SEC) is required to oversee the development and implementation of mandatory uniform guidelines for intensive care coordination for children who are at risk of entering, or placed in, residential care through the CSA program.</p> <p>(continued)</p>	<p>ICC has been implemented in three phases. The first two (Development of Guidelines and the Implementation Workgroup) have been completed. Phase 3 – Technical Assistance and Training – began in February 2009. An Intensive Care Coordinators (ICC) Network was formed to assist localities with implementation of ICC. Tracking of the implementation status at each CSB and providing technical assistance is on-going.</p> <p>After the ICC Guidelines were developed and adopted, an Implementation Workgroup was formed to address the issues of role confusion and functions, rates for ICC and provision for technical assistance. In 2009, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) sponsored a forum to provide information and answer questions.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Intensive Care Coordination <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>Item 274-C-2d of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act requires that, under the direction of the SEC, local Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) and Community Services Boards (CSBs) work collaboratively in their service areas to develop a local plan for intensive care coordination (ICC) services that best meets the needs of the children and families. If there is more than one CPMT in a CSB service area, the CPMTs and the CSB may work together as a region to develop a plan for ICC services.</p> <p>Local CPMTs and CSBs shall also work together to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective provider of ICC services for children in their community who are placed in, or at-risk of being placed in, residential care through the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families program, in accordance with guidelines developed by the SEC.</p> <p>The SEC and Office of Comprehensive Services shall establish guidelines for reasonable rates for ICC services and provide training and technical assistance to CPMTs and fiscal agents regarding these services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>As part of the Children's Services System Transformation, ICC now functions as a statewide initiative to create more in-home services and community resources for children who are at risk of being placed or who are currently placed in a group facility. All children receiving ICC services are also to be a part of a Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT), which helps coordinate services and identify what will be most helpful within the child's home. Community Service Boards (CSBs) across Virginia provide ICC, along with other private providers.</p> <p>ICC nine's communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampton-Newport News; • New River Valley (Montgomery, Floyd, Giles and Pulaski Counties, and Radford); • Loudoun County; • Roanoke, Craig, and Botetourt Counties, Salem, and Roanoke City; • Wise, Lee, and Scott Counties, and Norton; • Portsmouth • Lynchburg; • Harrisonburg and Rockingham County; and • Alexandria. <p>Further information about ICC is available at http://vafamilyconnections.com/intensive_care_coordination.shtml.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Utilization of Residential Facilities for Treatment of Children Pursuant to § 2.2-5200 of the Code, Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) are required to ensure that services and funding are consistent with the policies of preserving families and providing appropriate services in the least restrictive environment, while protecting the welfare of children and maintaining public safety. Localities must submit to the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) information on utilization of residential facilities for treatment of children and length of stay in such facilities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Item 274-B-d of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act requires the OCS to report to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on utilization rates and average length of stays statewide and for each locality by December 15 of each year.</p> <p><i>Report Document 45 Residential Services for Children in the Comprehensive Services Act – Utilization, Length of Stay and Expenditures, Statewide and by Locality – Program Year 2009 (2010)</i> reports that, because Program Year (PY) 09 categorical costs are reported differently in PY09, comparison to historical trends is not available. Additional analysis of residential costs will occur in PY10, when there will be two years of consistent reporting.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Expenditures Associated with Children who Do Not Receive Pool Funding and Have Emotional and Behavioral Problems Pursuant to § 2.2-2648 of the Code, the State Executive Council (SEC) is required to report and analyze these expenditures. In addition, the SEC is required to identify funding streams used to purchase services in addition to pooled, Medicaid, and Title IV-E funding.</p> <p>Both reporting requirements will be included in the biennial state progress report on comprehensive services to children, youth, and families delivered to the General Assembly and Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs).</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The 2010 biennial state progress report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, published as <i>Report Document 64 (2010)</i>, can be accessed on the General Assembly's Legislative Information System website at http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/Published%20by%20Year?OpenForm.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Technical Assistance to Localities</p> <p>Item 274-B-6 of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act allocates \$50,000 for each year for a combination of regional and statewide meetings for technical assistance to local Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs), Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs), and fiscal agents.</p> <p>Training shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost containment measures; • building community-based services; • utilization management; • use of alternative revenue sources; and • administrative and fiscal issues. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The State Executive Council (SEC) is required to approve a training plan before the beginning of each fiscal year. Budget language also requires that the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) create and maintain a calendar of training events, which must be made available to local governments. The web-based cross-system CSA Interagency Training Calendar, which is a collaborative effort of the Departments of Social Services, Education, Medical Assistance Services, and OCS, can be accessed at www.csa.state.va.us/csacal/maincal.cfm.</p> <p>The Appropriation Act requires that CSA report on all regional and statewide training sessions in the fiscal year to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees and to the members of the State Executive Council by December 1 of each year.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Transfer of Comprehensive Services Billing System</p> <p>Item 274-L of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act requires the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS), in collaboration with the Department of Medical Assistance Services, to explore the possibility of transferring the comprehensive services billing system to the Department of Medical Assistance Services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The amended Appropriations Act requires the OCS to report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on the costs and potential savings of transferring the system, as well as a timeline for implementation, by October 1, 2011.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Guidelines for Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Services</p> <p>Item 274-M of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act directs the State Executive Council (SEC) to authorize guidelines for therapeutic foster care (TFC) services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • standardized definition of therapeutic foster care services; • uniform service needs criteria required for the utilization of therapeutic foster care services; • uniform placement outcome goals to include length of stay targets when the service is indicated; and • uniform contracting requirements when purchasing therapeutic foster care services. <p>The SEC shall authorize the use of regional contracts for the provision of TFC services.</p> <p>The SEC shall direct the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with stakeholders to develop these guidelines for the provision of TFC; and • develop regional contracts for the provision of TFC, with the goal of decreasing the unit cost of social services and maintaining or increasing the quality and effectiveness of the services. <p>The SEC shall focus its attention on rural areas and areas with few service providers. Training on these guidelines will be provided for all local departments of social services, Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs), Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs) and TFC services providers.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member</p>	<p>The amended Appropriations Acts requires the Director of the Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS) to report the progress of these efforts to the SEC at its regularly scheduled meetings.</p> <p>In addition, Item 274-N 1-3 of the amended Appropriations Act requires the OCS to report the following information to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees beginning September 1, 2011 and each year thereafter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for therapeutic foster care services, including but not limited to the number of children served annually, average cost of care, type of service provided, length of stay, referral source, and ultimate disposition. In addition, the OCS shall provide guidance and training to assist localities in negotiating contracts with therapeutic foster care providers; and • funding for special education day treatment, residential services, and services provided in public schools, including but not limited to the number of children served annually, average cost of care, type of service provided, length of stay, referral source, and ultimate disposition. <p>The Special Advisor for Children's Services has convened a workgroup to assist with this process. Subgroups are assigned to address one of the following topics: guidelines; contracting; outcomes; and training.</p> <p>Meetings are scheduled for May 26 and June 15, 2011. Updates will be provided to the SEC throughout the summer and fall 2011.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Serving Children and Youth Using Non-educational Support Services</p> <p>Item 274-O of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act directs the State Executive Council (SEC) to develop a plan to serve children and youth eligible for CSA in the least restrictive environment through the appropriate use of non-educational supportive services. Strategies shall include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing clear guidelines for the provision of non-academic, home- and community-based services to children; • providing training to localities on the use of CSA pool funds for supportive services for children outside of school to maintain them in their homes and current school placements; and • providing training to localities on the provision of supportive services in the public school setting. <p>The plan shall be developed with input from key stakeholders, including the State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT), children's advocacy groups and special education experts.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The SEC is to report its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees on October 1, 2011.</p> <p>At its May 5, 2011 meeting, SEC discussed SLAT training and clarification requirements. The SLAT was tasked with developing the language and guidance to meet the goals of the Appropriations language. Training for this will be included in the SEC's FY12 training plan.</p>
Medical Assistance Services/ Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>Medicaid Waivers for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>Item 297-4c of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act directs the Departments of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), in consultation with appropriate stakeholders and national experts, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research and work to improve and/or develop Medicaid waivers for individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities that will increase efficiency and cost effectiveness; • enable more individuals to be served; • strengthen the delivery of person-centered supports; • enable individuals with high medical needs and/or high behavioral support needs to remain in the community setting of their choice; and • provide viable community alternatives to institutional placement. <p>This initiative shall include a review of the current Intellectual Disabilities, Day Support and Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support waivers.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>DMAS and DBHDS shall report on the proposed waiver changes and associated costs to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2011.</p>
Office of Comprehensive Services	<p>Special Education Mandate</p> <p>Since the establishment of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), students with disabilities have been included in the mandated population when the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) require placement into approved private education programs as stated in § 2.2-5211 of the Code.</p> <p>In May 1996, the State Executive Council (SEC) voted to extend the "special education mandate" established in the Code. In some cases, CSA funds have been used to provide services in the public schools for the special education mandate.</p> <p>At its January 10, 2011 meeting, the SEC voted to clarify the appropriate use of pool funds in the case of the population of children and youth the special education mandate.</p> <p>The new policy states: The special education mandate cited in § 2.2-5211 B1 may be utilized to fund non-residential services in the home and community for a student with a disability when the needs associated with his/her disability extend beyond the school setting and threaten the student's ability to be maintained in the home, community, or school setting.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>As a consequence, pool funding will no longer be used as an option for services provided in public schools for the special education mandate. The local school division is responsible for providing those services. CSA has noted that this policy does not preclude the use of wraparound services to children in private day placements or those who are transitioning home from a residential setting.</p> <p>On February 8 and 10, 2011 OCS and DOE co-hosted webinar sessions to discuss implementation of this policy.</p>

CHILD WELFARE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Office of the Governor	<p>Virginia's Early Childhood Advisory Council, formerly the Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives, coordinates executive branch early childhood programming and strengthens public and private programs. The Council, chaired by the Secretary of Education, brings together high-level staff from cabinet offices and State agencies in the areas of Education, Health and Human Resources, Economic Development, Finance and Policy. Created by Executive Order 91 in September 2009, the Council remains in effect until December 31, 2011.</p> <p>The Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) staffs the Council and coordinates programs and services for young children and their families, with the goal of optimizing opportunities for Virginia's children to reach kindergarten healthy and prepared for school success. OECD, which represents an interagency approach to managing services for young children and their families, spans the Virginia Departments of Education and Social Services and links to the Department of Health.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Agenda items at the Council's December 9, 2010 meeting, its last for the year, included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Plan for Smart Beginnings • Practice Model VA Child Services • Integrated Data • Governor's VPI Workgroup Proposals • Virginia Early Childhood Foundation Update <p>Minutes of Council meetings are available at http://www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/meetings.shtml.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Board of Social Services consists of nine members appointed by the Governor based on qualifications and experience that demonstrate the member's suitability to consider and act upon needs and decisions within the board's area of responsibility. Members of the board are appointed for a term of four years, and no member is eligible to serve more than two successive full terms. The board includes a member from each of the welfare regions of the state. Standing committees are Adult Services, Child Services and Poverty.</p> <p>A Strategic Planning Committee operating under the name Virginia Social Services System (VSSS) serves as a partnership of key organizations responsible for the administration, supervision and delivery of social services. VSSS has implemented a strategic plan to set a course and measure progress. Members representing local departments of social services, the Virginia Community Action Partnership (V-CAP) and DSS are responsible for developing strategic goals, objectives and measures for DSS. The Committee operates under a charter which provides detailed information on the committee, its roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Board typically meets quarterly.</p> <p>At its February 16-17, 2011 meeting, agenda items included a number of action items, as well as discussions of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Fatality Report • Budget Update • Child Care Automation Update • Comment from the public, local boards, the League and the Commissioner • Virginia Community Action Partnership • Poverty in Richmond City <p>Agendas and minutes are available at www.dss.virginia.gov.</p>
Office of the Governor/ Social Services	<p>Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) is a nonprofit public-private partnership providing collaborative leadership to foster Smart Beginnings for Virginia's young children and grants, training and technical assistance to local communities to build their capacity to provide early childhood services.</p> <p>VECF was recommended by the Early Learning Council Task Force, which was charged with recommending strategies to improve Virginia's ability to provide early learning experiences to children from birth to age five. In making the recommendation, the Council cited the need for a state-level 501(c)(3) entity to lead an aggressive agenda to build the state's infrastructure for an effective early childhood system. In response, VECF was created in December 2005.</p> <p>VECF relies on the shared leadership of local councils to provide strategic planning, effective integration of programs and services, decision-making and accountability for local delivery, implementation and outcomes.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Item 333 of the 2010-2012 amended Appropriation Act allocated \$1,275,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year to support the VECF, with the goal of promoting programs that enhance the health, safety and well-being of Virginia's youth. Also, on or before October 1 of each year, VECF must submit to the Governor and the Chairmen of the money committees a report on the actual amount, by fiscal year, of private and local government funds received by the Foundation.</p> <p><i>Report Document 280</i> (2010) was published as VECF's 2010 Annual Report and is posted on www.smartbeginnings.org, as well as on the General Assembly's Legislative Information System website at http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2802010/\$file/RD280.pdf.</p>

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Alignment Project, started in February 2006 and spearheaded by the Department of Social Services (DSS), now involves a team of professionals from many agencies under four secretariats, other agencies, and organizations from throughout Virginia. It functions under the oversight of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, which is discussed in the preceding section.</p> <p>The Alignment Project documents reflect a set of guiding principles that have served as a valuable compass in developing these resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are the first and most influential teachers of young children. • Every child develops at an individual rate, possesses unique characteristics, and exhibits an array of talents and interests regardless of family background, culture, special need, experience, or ability. • Optimal learning occurs when we recognize that all aspects of a child's development (i.e., social and emotional, approaches to learning, language and literacy, cognitive, and physical) are inextricably interrelated and nurtured through a combination of active exploration, play, social interaction, and thoughtfully planned activities that capitalize on children's natural tendency to seek ever higher levels of challenge to master. • Early learning experiences draw upon and enhance the connections between families, early childhood programs and services, schools, and the community. • Quality early learning experiences for children are guided by research-based knowledge and practice. • All children are capable and competent learners, and they learn best when they are included with their peers. <p>The Alignment Project is the umbrella for Virginia's early childhood initiatives: Smart Beginnings, Start Strong, and the Star Quality Initiative.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>New publications recently released through the Alignment Project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milestones of Children Development • Competencies of the Early Childhood Professional • Related to Virginia's Star Quality (Quality Rating and Improvement System) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virginia's Star Quality Standard for Center-Based Classrooms - Brief Overview of Virginia's QRIS <p>With support from Capital One, Virginia's Star Quality Initiative provides quality standards for early learning programs on a five star scale. The Initiative offers a market-based solution to facilitate quality consistency among early childhood programs, support continuous quality improvement in partnership with public and private early education providers, and encourage a continuum of care and education throughout various provider settings, so that all children arrive in kindergarten ready to succeed.</p> <p>There is an Advisory Team overseeing the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Pilot Demonstration and providing guidance and strategic recommendations for Virginia's Star Quality Initiative.</p>
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation	<p>Smart Beginnings — a component of the Alignment Project — is a statewide collaboration with the broad goal of sharing information and efforts to direct new and improved resources to families with children from birth to age five.</p> <p>At the state level, leadership for Smart Beginnings is provided by the Governor's Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives in the public sphere and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) in the private sphere. The planning process for Virginia's early childhood system of services involves approximately 50 partners statewide in both private and public sectors.</p> <p>The initiative highlights the health, social and emotional and cognitive needs of very young children, and urges partners in every community to plan and partner strategically for a strong early childhood system to meet these needs. It focuses on parent/consumer education information regarding selecting and accessing quality child care and preschool programs. A key component of this initiative is public education messages about the correlation between high quality, early childhood education and a competitive workforce and vital economy.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Smart Beginnings plan is intended to provide practical guidelines, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritized goals, measurable objectives and strategies; • outcomes to measure progress; and • clear accountability and communication of results. <p>Details of the plan are available at www.smartbeginnings.org.</p> <p><i>Smart Beginnings: A Snapshot of 2009-2010 Accomplishments</i> highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention—Reaching a Larger Number of At-Risk Children Earlier; • Increasing Literacy—A True Measurement of School Readiness; • Professional Development—Working for the Early Childhood Workforce; • Community Collaborations—Joining Together to Maximize Resources; • Leadership Development—Enhancing Skills to Achieve Results; • Mobilizing Communities—Working Together for Prosperity • Spreading the Word—Reaching Out with Faith: Smart; • Targeted Outreach—Giving Those in Greatest Need a Springboard to Readiness

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Criminal Justice Services	<p>Virginia CARES is a non-profit statewide organization funded in part through Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), federal CSB block grants and other funds. CARES is one of nine providers eligible to receive grants from DCJS for pre- and post-release services to Virginia offenders and ex-offenders. CARES was an outgrowth of another Roanoke organization and continues to have its offices there.</p> <p>Other providers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwestern Regional Jail; • Colonial Community Corrections Transitional Services; • Northern Neck Regional Jail; • O.A.R. (Arlington, Fairfax, Jefferson Area, and Richmond offices); and • STEPUP, Inc. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Virginia CARES maintains statistics on, among other issues, participants who complete and implement life plans that change their futures and are establishing responsible relationships with their families and children.</p> <p>For many years, CARES in Roanoke has focused on mentoring children of incarcerated parents in partnership with New Vision Youth Services, a regional organization which provides the mentoring services. New Vision serves on the Board of Roanoke Adolescent Health Partnership.</p> <p>CARES has submitted a Second Chance Act grant application under the Technology Careers Training Demonstration announcement. The purpose of this grant is to increase the post-release employability of offenders in technology-based jobs and career fields. The objective of the proposed program is to provide technology career training to train incarcerated adults and juveniles during the three-year period before release from jail, prison, or juvenile facility.</p> <p>Organizational updates are available at www.vacares.org/index.html.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Family & Children's Trust Fund of Virginia (FACT) was created in the Code of Virginia in 2002 with the mandate "to provide for the support and development of services for the prevention and treatment of violence within families" and to achieve that goal through public and private collaboration.</p> <p>FACT is administered by a Board of 15 members appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. The Commissioner of Social Services serves as a permanent member of the Board. Partners include the Department of Social Services, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, the Center for Injury and Violence Prevention, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Department of Corrections–Victim Services, Virginia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and other governmental entities, advocacy organizations.</p> <p>Funding comes from a variety of sources, including KIDS FIRST license plates and merchandise. Also, Virginia law allows taxpayers to donate all or part of their income tax refund to FACT via their state tax return or on-line designation. Funds received are subsequently re-distributed for local programs throughout Virginia.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The 2011 meeting calendar has not been determined.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) is the primary organization to advise the Department of Social Services (DSS) Director of the Division of Family Services on child welfare issues. It helps ensure that all child welfare activities are child-centered, family-focused and community-based.</p> <p>The CWAC was created in 2003 to assist in the Federal Child and Family Services Review conducted in July of that year. The Review subsequently indicated that Virginia needed to improve in several key areas, which led to expanded CWAC responsibilities for providing guidance and direction to the PIP.</p>	<p>DSS child welfare programs addressed by CWAC include Adoption, Child Protective Services, Family Preservation, Foster Care, and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).</p> <p>The focus of the January 21 meeting was 2011 General Assembly legislation and budget, as well as discussions surrounding Adoption Assistance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(continued)</i></p>

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
	<p>Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) <i>(continued)</i> The PIP's corrective phase ended January 2007, but CWAC has continued its work. CWAC membership includes advocacy groups, private providers, local and state public agencies and foster/adoptive parents.</p> <p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advising on child welfare program, policy, training and practice issues; • advising on the development of the five-year Child and Family Services Plan and annual progress reports, as well as other state plans under the responsibility of Family Services; and • guiding development and implementation of Virginia's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for any element that Virginia does not meet requirements of the Child and Family Services Review. <p>Commission's involvement: Committee Member</p>	<p>On February 18, the CWAC addressed issues of undocumented youth and provision of services for those children, home studies for Resource Families, and Therapeutic Foster Care.</p> <p>On March 18, agenda items included Critical Outcomes Report update, Performance Based Contracting, Accurint, Practice Model Implementation, and Quality Services Review: Chesterfield and Norfolk.</p> <p>Agendas and minutes are available at http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/cwac/index.cgi.</p>
Social Services	<p>Established in Code by the 2009 General Assembly, the Virginia Child Protection Accountability System (CPS) collects and makes available to the public information on the response to reported cases of child abuse in the Commonwealth. Code provisions have been amended as of July 1, 2010 by House Bill 736 (Albo), which adds state police and circuit courts to the list of agencies required to report cases of child abuse and neglect into the System. The intent of the legislation was to increase communication and cooperation among law enforcement agencies and help officials see whether some localities fail to pursue people who prey on children.</p> <p>The Code requires the System to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the total number of complaints alleging child abuse, neglect, or a combination thereof received; the total number of complaints deemed valid pursuant to § 63.2-1508; the total number of complaints investigated by the Department pursuant to subsection l of § 63.2-1503 and § 63.2-1505; the total number of cases determined to be founded cases of abuse or neglect; and the total number of cases resulting in a finding that the complaint was founded resulting in administrative appeal. (Information reported shall be reported by total number of appeals to the local department, total number of appeals to the Department, and total number of appeals by outcome of the appeal.) <p>For each category of information required by this subdivision, DSS shall also report the total number of cases by type of abuse, by gender, age, and race of the alleged victim, and by the nature of the relationship between the alleged victim and alleged abuser.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Quarterly CPS reports are available on the DSS website at www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/children/cps/accountability.cgi.</p> <p>The system, as described by DSS: collects and makes available to the public information on the response to reported cases of child abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth. Quarterly reports provide information on the number of referrals received, accepted, investigated, founded and appealed by locality and for the State as a whole.</p>
Social Services	<p>The scope of Virginia's programs is presented in DSS' quarterly Virginia Child Protection Newsletter (VCPN). The scholarly periodical, which provides service providers and educators with detailed descriptions of Virginia programs, current research, and national trends, is published by DSS Child Protective Services Unit and James Madison University's Department of Psychology.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Topic of the Spring 2011 issue is "Serving Immigrant Families" issues surrounding provision of services to foreign-born populations.</p> <p>Current and past issues are available at http://www.psychweb.cisat.jmu.edu/graysojh</p>

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) is a statewide, private nonprofit organization leading a coalition of community partners across the Commonwealth. It coordinates Healthy Families Virginia (HFV), a statewide system of support and information for all new families about parenting and community resources. It makes home visiting services available to families needing personal guidance. Other direct service programs include Hugs and Kisses and Nurturing Programs. In addition, PCAV provides Awareness Activities, such as Child Abuse Prevention Month promotions and a "Together for Children" newsletter, as well as educational opportunities and advocacy.</p> <p>Prevent Child Abuse Virginia's outreach extends into Virginia's adult correctional facilities to reach incarcerated parents of minor children. Mothers Inside Loving Kids (MILK), in operation since the 1980s, transferred to Fluvanna Correctional Facility for Women when it opened in 1998. The program is a series of day-long mother/child visits which develops skills in mothers who have completed required parenting classes. There are currently approximately 40 incarcerated mothers who were first identified by staff and ultimately approved after interviews with the Board of Directors.</p> <p>DSS administers both the Virginia Family Violence Prevention Program (VFVPP) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program grants for child abuse and neglect prevention. The VFVPP Program was established in 1982 for purposes stated in § 63.2-1502.3 of the Code: "to assist in developing programs aimed at discovering and preventing the many factors causing child abuse and neglect."</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Item 333-C of the 2010-2012 Amended Appropriation Act provides \$570,000 the second year from the general fund and \$3,557,306 the first year and \$2,855,501 the second year from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to support Healthy Families Virginia. The Department of Social Services (DSS) is directed to allocate funds from this item to the statewide office of PCAV for providing the coordination, technical support, quality assurance, training and evaluation of the Healthy Families Virginia program.</p> <p>The 2011 Child Abuse Prevention Conference was held April 11 in Richmond, with DSS and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia co-sponsoring. The Governor's Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect will present awards to outstanding child advocates. Conference topics include Shaken Baby Syndrome; parent leadership; eating nutritiously on a budget; safe sleeping for children; sexually abused boys; fatherhood; sexual abuse prevention; using data as a management tool. Keynote speaker will be Jaiya John, Ph.D., who was placed in foster care after birth and has since become a motivational speaker, mentor and advocate.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Child Support Guidelines Review Panel determines the adequacy of the guideline for the determination of appropriate awards for the support of children by considering current research and data on the cost of and expenditures necessary for rearing children, and any other resources it deems relevant to such review. The Panel consists of 15 members, including four legislative members and 11 nonlegislative citizen members.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Panel Member</p>	<p>States are required by federal regulation to review at least quadrennially their criteria for determining child support awards. Pursuant to § 20-108.2 of the Code of Virginia, the Panel is directed to review guidelines and report its findings to the General Assembly.</p> <p>The Panel's first 2011 meeting was March 31. Upcoming meetings are June 16, September 26, and November 16. Further information is available at http://dls.state.va.us/childsupport.htm.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School-Time (VPOST) is a statewide public-private partnership dedicated to developing and expanding academic, social, emotional, and physical supports and services to school-age children and youth across the Commonwealth of Virginia during the out-of-school time hours – before-school, after-school, vacations periods, and summer.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Leadership Council Member</p>	<p>A core group of key stakeholders in Virginia began meeting in April 2009 to begin the process of identifying individuals with expertise in the field Out-of-School Time (OST). The goal was to bring together representatives from the governor's office, state education agency, child care, health, labor, youth development, juvenile justice, statewide associations, and the private sector to promote quality OST programs throughout Virginia through collaboration. In January 2011, through a Mott Grant, VPOST was able to hire an executive director for the network.</p> <p>2011 Leadership Council meetings have been held on February 15, March 11, and May 18. VPOST hosted an Organizational Development and Strategic Planning Session on March 31-April 1.</p>

CHILD WELFARE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Virginia Information and Referral (I&R) System has existed for almost a quarter of a century. Section 63.2-222 of the Code established a statewide I&R system, which is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect and maintain accurate and complete resource data on a statewide basis; ▪ Link citizens needing human services with appropriate community resources to satisfy those needs; ▪ Assist in planning for human services delivery at the local, regional and state levels; and ▪ Provide information to assist decision-makers in allocating financial and other resources to respond to State and local human service priorities. <p>Item 333-F-1 of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act appropriated the Department of Social Services (DSS) \$473,844 from the general fund and \$781,791 from the federal trust fund to support statewide implementation.</p> <p>Item 333-F-1-3 of the Appropriation Act directs DSS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Request that all state and local child-serving agencies be included in the Virginia Statewide I&R System, as well as any agency or entity that receives state general fund dollars and provides services to families and youth. The Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Public Safety shall assist in this effort by requesting all affected agencies within their Secretariats to submit information to the statewide I&R System and ensure that such information is accurate and updated annually. Agencies shall also notify the Virginia I&R System of changes in services that occur throughout the year. ▪ Communicate with Virginia child-serving agencies about the availability of the statewide I&R System. This information shall also be communicated via the DSS' broadcast system on their agency-wide Intranet so that all local and regional offices can be better informed about the Statewide I&R System. Information on the Statewide I&R System shall also be included within the Department's electronic mailings to all local and regional offices at least biannually. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Regional Call Centers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of Community Services – Roanoke; • Family Resource & Referral – Staunton; • Crisis Link – Northern Virginia; • The Planning Council – Norfolk; • United Way of Central Virginia – Lynchburg; and • United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. <p>Centers are certified through wAIRS, the international Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. Virginia's AIRS is a statewide association of organizations, agencies and individuals committed to ensuring that all Virginians have access to quality health and human services information.</p> <p>2-1-1 offers callers a connection to a trained professional who provides referrals to health and human services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic human needs; • Work initiatives (including GED preparation and educational/vocational training programs); • Support to seniors and those with disabilities (including relative caregiver information); • Support for children, youth and families (including after-school programs, tutoring, mentorships, protective services, early childhood learning programs, child care referral centers); and • Volunteer service opportunities (including donated goods). • Physical and mental health resources (including pre-natal care, children's health insurance, support groups). <p>The organization has updated its website for on-line inquiries and added Spanish as a second language option. Its web address is www.211virginia.org.</p>
Housing and Community Development/ Social Services	<p>The Child Care for Homeless Children Program is provided through the federally funded Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The origination point of the block grant is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) is the lead agency, as designated by the chief executive officer of the State of Virginia, which administers the CCDBG. DSS makes available a portion of the CCDBG funds for the Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP).</p> <p>The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers the CCHCP through an interagency agreement with DSS. The goal of the Child Care for Homeless Children Program is to increase the availability and affordability of quality child care to homeless families residing in an emergency shelter or transitional housing.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Child Care for Homeless Children Program objectives are to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal funding to emergency shelters and transitional housing programs to afford homeless parents with a broader range of child care options for their children; and • Homeless families with financial resources to aid in the transition to self-sufficiency. <p>Current program guidelines are available at http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov.</p>

CHILD WELFARE (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) is the statewide membership association for Virginia's thirty non-profit private and public community action agencies which work to fight poverty and build self-sufficiency for strong families and communities.</p> <p>Item 333-A-3 of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directs VACAP to support the Virginia Earned Income Tax Coalition and provide grants to local organizations to provide outreach, education and tax preparation services to citizens who may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Budget language requires the Department of Social Services to report its findings no later than December 1 of each year to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.</p> <p>Further information is available at http://www.vacap.org.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE) is a statewide organization whose goal is to foster collegial relationships among its members and collaboration among agencies and governments in the formulation, implementation, and advocacy of legislation and policies which promote the public welfare. It targets categories of social services through committees, including the Child Care Committee, the CSA Committee and the Child and Family Services Committee. The charges for the Child and Family Services Committee are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify child welfare workgroups and works with state partners to insure League representation on those workgroups in the development of the implementation plans for state initiatives related to child welfare. As a continuous quality improvement effort, work to develop an MOU with state partners to establish a more effective communication system regarding child welfare practice so that modifications to guidance is shared consistently statewide Develop a document identifying the current state of children in Virginia and what is needed by local agencies to improve the process of serving families. <p>Commission's involvement: Child and Family Services Committee Member</p>	<p>On May 4 and 5, 2011 the VLSSE hosted its statewide spring training conference. Workshop topics included Substance Abuse Models, Developing Community Initiatives, Quality Services, Therapeutic Foster Care in local DSS, and State/Local Dialogue. The League will hold another training conference in October.</p> <p>At the Child and Family Services Committee's March 4 meeting, Commission on Youth staff presented on 2010 studies and the updated <i>Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i>. On April 1, the Committee met to discuss the relationship between the courts and child welfare in terms of permanency issues and to hear updates on barrier crimes, child fatality and related issues.</p> <p>Further information is available at www.vlsse.org.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Community Builders' Network of Virginia (CBN) is a non-profit organization which serves as a network of community-based coalitions.</p> <p>The coalitions which make up this organization collectively offer alternative activities to youth and adults that focus on eliminating alcohol and substance abuse, strengthening family structure and other positive activities.</p> <p>CBN offers financial and technical support, networking opportunities, and educational training and collaborates with all member coalitions to provide technical assistance, planning, education and training as a means for facilitating coalition based activities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Organizational Partner and Participant</p>	<p>The 2011 meeting calendar is not currently available.</p> <p>The Commission on Youth will participate in the 2011 statewide summer conference on June 24-25 in Richmond. Delegates Robert Brink and Christopher Peace will speak as part of the luncheon roundtable.</p>
Voices for Virginia's Children	<p>The KIDS COUNT data system is an on-going nationwide effort to monitor key statistical indicators of the well-being of children. Supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT gives policy makers, researchers, government and elected officials, funders and others ready access to more than 100 up-to-date statistical indicators of health status, educational achievement, poverty and socio-economic status, family and community demographics reflecting overall child-being and risk factors that threaten well-being. The data is presented such that Virginia data can be compared to other states and national trends.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Advisory Group Member</p>	<p>Voices for Virginia's Children, a non-profit organization, is part of the KIDS COUNT national network. An Advisory Group of professionals has been convened to assess data needs in Virginia. Voices maintains a KIDS COUNT on-line data center to make accessing and portraying data easier for users. The data center can be accessed at http://vakids.org/work/kcdata.htm.</p> <p>Data is categorized by the following factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education 2. Economic Well-Being 3. Health 4. Safety and Risky Behaviors

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>The Commission on Youth will conduct a one-year study of School Enrollment Practices for Kinship Caregivers as one of its 2011 legislative initiatives. The study follows action taken by the Commission at its November 15, 2010 meeting related to staff recommendations coming out of its Study of Barriers of Kinship Care in Virginia.</p> <p>Three of the recommendations which the Commission approved addressed challenges confronting kinship caregivers who seek to enroll a child in their care in school. The recommendation directs that an advisory group of representatives from impacted agencies and stakeholder organizations be convened to study ways to clarify the school enrollment process for informal kinship caregivers. The review will also address legal guardianship.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Commission on Youth Study</p>	<p>The draft study plan was approved by the Commission on Youth at its April 5, 2011 meeting.</p> <p>The newly-formed advisory group of stakeholders will hold its first meeting on June 7 in Richmond.</p> <p>The Commission on Youth will receive study findings and recommendations for action prior to the 2012 General Assembly Session.</p>
Social Services	<p>On May 3, 2011, the Department of Social Services announced plans to move forward with a custody assistance option called the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP). GAP supports permanency for children and youth in foster care with the goal of Placement with Relatives.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking; Commission on Youth Recommendation from 2010 Barriers to Kinship Care Study</p>	<p>In 2009, DSS convened a diverse workgroup responsible for assessing the feasibility of custody assistance in Virginia and also developed an implementation plan including draft policies and procedures, On-line Automated Services Information System (OASIS) changes, and information sharing strategies. The work of this group will serve as the basis for an updated implementation plan and moving GAP forward during the next fiscal year.</p> <p>GAP will be implemented in Virginia in 2012.</p>
Aging	<p>The Department of Aging's Kinship Care Task Force is a statewide Task Force and information network which focuses on inter-generational activities, as well as communication issues among the kinship care community.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Task Force Member</p>	<p>At the Task Force's meeting on February 24, 2011, Commission on Youth staff briefed the members on the recommendations adopted by the Commission related to the 2010 Study of Barriers to Kinship Care in Virginia. Task Force members also received an update on Senior Navigator. The Task Force will be investing potential funding source for a kinship navigator under the Federal Fostering Connections Act.</p> <p>Task Force members have been updated on a national Brookdale Foundation Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) State Online Networking Event on March 17, 2011. As part of the event, participating state RAPPs posted questions, comments and resources to further a nationwide dialogue.</p> <p>Members have also received information about a significant provision of the federal Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010 enacted on December 31, 2010. This amends the National School Lunch Act to make children in foster care categorically eligible for free school meals. This has been interpreted as including children placed by a court into a kinship home or other "caretaker" household.</p> <p>The March 24 meeting was rescheduled for April 15.</p>

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Kinship Care Task Force addresses the needs of grand-parents and others caring for minor children in their families, as well as the needs of the those children. The Task Force, which meets quarterly, was created to examine the feasibility of establishing a Kinship Care program in Virginia.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Senator Yvonne Miller co-chairs the Task Force; Commission staff serves as a member.</p>	Currently, this Task Force is inactive.
Social Services	<p>The Children's Services System Transformation is based on the belief that every child deserves a safe environment and lifelong connections to a family. As part of the Transformation, the Council on Reform (CORE) was established in 2008 based on Virginia's Services reform efforts initiated by then-First Lady Anne Holton and her <i>For Keeps Initiative</i> and was a recommendation from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. CORE is no longer meeting.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Children's Services System Transformation provides information on how to transformation a community by providing information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-Based Continuum of Care; • Family Engagement; • Kinship Care; • Intensive Care Coordination; • Managing by Data; • National Youth in Transition Database; • Quality Service Review; • Safe Measures; • Resource Families; and • Training. <p>Further information is available at www.vafamilyconnections.com.</p>
Medical Assistance Services	<p>Treatment Foster Care and Residential Psychiatric Services Training – Item 297-O of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act requires the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), in cooperation with the State Executive Council (SEC), to offer semi-annual training to local Comprehensive Services Act teams on procedures for using Medicaid for residential treatment and treatment foster care services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Statewide trainings were held in April and May 2010.</p> <p>Further information on the 2011 calendar is available at www.dmas.virginia.gov/default.aspx.</p>
Social Services	<p>Foster Care Training – Item 326-A of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Office of Comprehensive Services, to provide training to local staff serving on Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs) and Community Policy and Management Teams (CPMTs). Training will address federal and state requirements related to foster care services funded under § 2.2-5211 of the Code, as well as written guidance on which services remain the financial responsibility of the local departments.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>As mandated, training will be provided on a regional basis at least annually.</p> <p>A list of on-going training opportunities is available at the CSA website www.csa.state.va.us/csacal/maincal.cfm.</p>
Social Services	<p>FACES (Family Advocacy, Collaboration, Empowerment, and Support) of Virginia Families, the organization seeks to establish a grassroots effort for kinship parents, foster and adoptive parents in Virginia.</p> <p>FACES, a not-for-profit association funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS), supports recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and adoptive parents, provides information to the State about what families need in terms of support and training, and advocates for the needs of youth and families.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>FACES hosts its 4th Annual Support and Training Institute "Be a Star" on May 20-22, 2011 in Roanoke. A one-day special session focuses on special education laws & advocacy. A concurrent session for youth – the annual Youth Conference – runs on the second day, while parents and caregivers address a range of issues in morning/afternoon sessions.</p> <p>FACES maintains a toll-free phone number for families (877-VAFACES or 877-823-2237), made possible under a Department of Social Services family support contract. A Kinship Care resources kit is available on-line at www.facesofvirginia.org.</p>

KINSHIP CARE, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (H.R. 6893/P.L. 110-351) addresses the needs of youth in foster care by promoting permanent families for them through relative guardianship and adoption and improving education and health care. Additionally, it extends federal support for youth up to age 21. The Fostering Connections Act will, for the first time, offer many American Indian children federal protections and support, and provides for the following:</p> <p><u>Ensuring Permanent Placements with Relatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinship guardianship assistance payments for children living in foster care with relatives • Licensing standards for relatives <p><u>Increasing Adoptive Families for Children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal support for adoption assistance for more children with special needs • Expanding the Adoption Incentives Program • Making older children who exit foster care eligible for additional supports • Outreach about the adoption tax credit <p><u>Maintaining Sibling Ties and Other Family Connections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing siblings together • Family Connection Grants <p><u>Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing federal support for children in foster care after age 18 • Helping older youth successfully transition from foster care to independence <p><u>Improving the Quality of Staff Working with Children in the Child Welfare System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending federal training to more staff <p><u>Increasing Access to Federal Funding to Promote Better Outcomes for Indian Children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing Indian tribes direct access to federal foster care and adoption assistance funds <p><u>Addressing Children's Health and Education Needs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing health oversight and coordination plans • Promoting educational stability <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Although this is a federal initiative, it is included because of its far-reaching impact on future state initiatives in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Fostering Connection provides a website which contains technical resources and information for policymakers and others in Virginia who are working to implement the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick facts about children in foster care in Virginia; • Current legislation proposed and enacted related to the law; • Existing state policies, tools, analyses and research relevant for the various components of the new law; • Examples of state and tribal approaches to implementation; • Information about upcoming events and news; and • A listing of Virginia contacts that may be helpful resources for Virginia's efforts in implementing the Act. <p>Additional information is available at www.fosteringconnections.org/resources/state?id=0046.</p>

CHILD CARE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Social Services	<p>Automation of Day Care Assistance Program – Item 327-L of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act expresses the General Assembly's intent that the Department of Social Services (DSS) automated day care assistance programs.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>In January 2009, DSS issued a Request for Information (RFI) to determine whether baseline requirements developed for the automated child care system could be met with existing technology and to identify new functionalities to make program management more efficient. Award of the contract took place in November 2009.</p> <p>Budget language requires DSS to report on the adequacy of the system and needed action to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 15 of each year. <i>Report Document 221</i> (2010) - is available on the General Assembly's Legislative Information System at http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD212010/\$file/RD221.pdf.</p>
Social Services	<p>The Child Day Care Council (CDCC) is authorized by the Code to adopt regulatory standards for licensure and operation of child day care centers in Virginia. Also, in collaboration with the Virginia Recreation and Park Society and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, CDCC is charged with promulgating regulations for therapeutic recreation programs. The regulations are to be developed in consultation with representatives of the affected entities and are not to require the adoption of a specific teaching approach or doctrine.</p> <p>The CDCC, which operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, is comprised of a minimum of 28 members appointed by the Governor and representing a variety of interests from around the state. The Council is guided by its 2006-2011 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>CDCC generally meets six times per year on the 2nd Thursday of every other month, opposite meetings of the Board.</p> <p>Topics on the agenda for the March 10, 2011 meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience Advocacy Project Updates; • Fire Code & Building Top 10 Checklist for Day Care Centers; • Overview, Office of Early Childhood Development; and • Early Childhood and School Age Child Care Provider Registry. <p>CDCC met on May 12, 2011. Its 2011 meeting calendar was finalized at that time.</p> <p>Meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.dss.virginia.gov.</p>

HUMAN SERVICES

Lead Agency	Description	Status
State and Local Agencies Representatives	<p>Virginia Association for Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO) is comprised of State and local government officials. Full membership is limited to the single most senior official in a locality who has broad responsibilities for multiple agencies delivering human services. Most members have direct oversight or liaison responsibilities for health, mental health and social services. VALHSO advises state agency heads or members of the General Assembly members on these topics.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>VALHSO generally meets quarterly; additional meetings are added as needed for specific areas of interest.</p>

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Criminal Justice Services/Virginia State Police	<p>The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Fund seeks to enhance investigation and prosecution of internet crimes against children. The ICAC funds may be used to support the salary and benefits for an ICAC dedicated investigator to conduct investigations related to ICAC affiliated cases or to support the salary and benefits for an ICAC dedicated forensic examiner to conduct forensic exams exclusively on ICAC affiliated cases.</p> <p>The law, which went into effect July 1, 2010, will assess an additional \$10 fee on each felony and misdemeanor conviction. The money will go into Virginia's Internet Crimes Against Children Fund to support the work of investigators. The fee is expected to generate at least \$1.5 million a year for the fund, which will be administered by the Virginia State Police. All fees are deposited into the state treasury and credited to the Internet Crimes Against Children Fund.</p> <p>In addition, Item 384-H-1 of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act, provides \$600,000 each year for the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, \$500,000 each year for the creation of a grant program to law enforcement agencies for the prevention of internet crimes against children. Two task forces are designated for funding: the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Northern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>In 2010, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation creating the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Fund. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is the administering agency for this fund. A \$10 fee is assessed as court costs on each felony or misdemeanor conviction. All fees collected are credited to the ICAC Fund. DCJS projects that approximately \$500,000.00 will be deposited into the fund each year. This is in addition to the monies appropriated in Item 384-H-1 in the 2010-2012 Appropriations Act.</p> <p>On October 21, 2010, DCJS announced the availability of grant funds to support local law enforcement agencies to enhance investigation and prosecution of internet crimes against children. The grant period is for 18 months beginning January 1, 2011.</p> <p>On January 5, 2011, Governor McDonnell announced that five localities participating in one of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces in Virginia will receive funds to hire additional forensic examiners and investigators.</p> <p>Operation Blue Ridge Thunder through the Bedford County Virginia Sheriff's Office is a cooperative group of law enforcement agencies at all levels of government. Its mission is to safeguard children from Internet crime by weaving a seamless web of protection around them. Group members have made over 100 presentations to administrators, teachers, parents, community groups and law enforcement professionals.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>Education and Training Services in Juvenile Detention Centers</p> <p>Item 384 of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directed the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), in coordination with the Department of Correctional Education (DCE), shall conduct a study of the education and training services that are available in juvenile detention centers, as well as local jails.</p> <p>The study shall examine the level and types of services available, as well as the barriers to providing such services and the gaps in service provision. It shall also determine the amounts and types of funding provided for such services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>DCJS shall report its findings to the Secretary of Public Safety by October 1, 2011.</p>
University of Virginia	<p>The University of Virginia's Curry School of Education's Virginia Youth Violence Project addresses the range of youth violence prevention and school safety issues and provides training and support to schools educators through the Commonwealth. Bullying is included in the project's scope, as are more traditional public safety issues: Violence in the Schools, Threat Assessment, Prevention and Juvenile Violence.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>A synopsis of the study findings, as well as state and national legislative initiatives, is available at www.youthviolence.edschool.virginia.edu.</p>

RE-ENTRY

Lead Agency	Description	Status
	<p>Governor McDonnell has renamed the Virginia Prisoner Re-entry Policy Academy, established pursuant to Executive Order 97 (2009), as the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council to strengthen its mission of promoting re-entry strategies for adult and juvenile offenders.</p> <p>The Secretary of Public Safety chairs the Council. As defined by Executive Order 10 (2010), the Council has the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify barriers that exist in each member's department or agency that may impede successful transition of offenders returning to their communities; and develop and implement procedures to overcome such barriers, to include job training, education, housing, and substance abuse treatment. • Improve collaboration and coordination of transitional services, including providing cross-training; sharing information among state agencies; and developing policies, procedures, and programs with well-defined, performance-based outcomes that enhance re-entry management. • Establish partnerships between community colleges and the business sector to promote employment and transitional jobs for released offenders. • Engage local agencies, community-based social service providers, community organizations, faith-based organizations, as well as other stakeholders, in promoting successful re-entry policies and programs. • Submit a status report of actions taken to improve offender transitional and re-entry services to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than December 15 of each year. <p>The Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator works with the Council to develop a long-term strategic plan for achieving the goal of reducing offender recidivism for those released from incarceration. The plan, which is required to have measurable goals and specific outcome performance measures, will set out comprehensive strategies to be employed while offenders are incarcerated and to continue following their release. Also, the plan will identify methods of improving communication, sharing of information, and collaborating between state and local agencies.</p> <p>Executive Order 11 required the Council and the appropriate work groups to work collaboratively with the Juvenile Re-entry Advisory Group established by the Virginia Commission on Youth on improving the success and safety of juveniles returning to their community. This Advisory Group completed its work in November 2010.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Delegate Sherwood serves as a Council Member; Commission staff serves as a Juvenile Committee Member.</p>	<p>The Governor created the position of Statewide Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator for Virginia. The appointee, announced March 19, 2010, works across secretariats, with state agencies, local and federal partners, as well as faith-based and non-profit organizations, to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for prisoner re-entry in Virginia. The goals encompass youth, as well as adult, offenders.</p> <p>On November 8, 2010, its last meeting for the year, the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Re-entry Council adopted recommendations from the various work groups and committees. Also at this meeting the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) unveiled its four year strategic plan, the Virginia Adult Re-Entry Initiative (VARI). Public safety remains the highest priority for the DOC; one in which the DOC has excelled as demonstrated by its top national safety rating compared with other states. Compared to other states, Virginia has a low prison escape rate and low incidents of offender and staff assaults. The DOC's Division of Community Corrections is ranked 8th in the nation for its supervision completion rate, with 72 percent of offenders successfully discharged from probation, parole or post release supervision.</p> <p>Among the 38 states that report felon recidivism as re-imprisonment within three years of release, Virginia ties for the sixth lowest recidivism, with a rate of 28.3 percent. Although the rate represents an accomplishment, it also indicates that - over a three year period - more than 10,000 offender's recidivate, either because they have committed new crimes or have failed to comply with the conditions of probation or parole supervision. This number represents new victims, higher taxpayer costs associated with police and court processes and re-incarceration, unsupported families on public assistance, and other negative social implications.</p> <p>The <i>Status Report on Offender Transitional and Re-entry Services</i> to the Virginia General Assembly was published November 15, 2010.</p> <p>The Re-Entry Council's 2011 meeting dates are July 14 and November 8.</p> <p>Information on the Re-entry Council is available at www.publicsafety.virginia.gov/Initiatives/Re-Entry.</p>

RE-ENTRY (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Public Safety	<p>Signed into law on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act (P.L. 110-199) aims to improve outcomes for people returning to communities from prisons and jails. This first-of-its-kind legislation authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services to help reduce recidivism.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>On September 15, 2010, Governor McDonnell announced \$1.5 million in new funding for Virginia's Comprehensive Prisoner Re-Entry Program. This amount includes \$750,000 in Second Chance funds to support high-risk offenders re-entering their communities. Funds are distributed to six re-entry councils established in Charlottesville, Culpeper, King George, Norfolk, Richmond City and 14 localities in Southwest Virginia.</p> <p>Second Chance funds also supported the creation of the Norfolk Circuit Re-entry Docket, a new re-entry court pilot program.</p> <p>The Verizon Foundation has also supplemented a federal grant which serves female offenders in drug treatment programs from Tazewell, Russell and Buchanan counties. Programs began in October 2010.</p>
Social Services/ Correctional Education	<p>Prisoner Re-entry Programs</p> <p>Item 327-H of the 2010-2012 Appropriation Act directs the Department of Social Services (DSS), in conjunction with the Department of Correctional Education (DCE), to identify and apply for federal, private and faith-based grants for pre-release parenting programs for non-custodial incarcerated parent offenders committed to the Department of Corrections.</p> <p>Budget language requires DSS to identify certain grant programs including, but not limited to the following: Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriages, State Child Access and Visitation Block Grant, Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative Collaboration, Special Improvement Projects, Social Security Demonstration Grants, and new grant programs authorized under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Section 2.2-213.2 of the Code stipulates that the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, with the Secretary of Public Safety, shall establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and provision of services for children with incarcerated parents among state, local, nonprofit agencies, and faith-based organizations to provide such children with services needed to continue parental relationships with the incarcerated parents, where appropriate, and encourage healthy relationships in the family and community.</p> <p>The Virginia Re-entry Policy Academy was established to help integrate and plan re-entry services provided by Virginia's state, local and community based agencies. The Academy also recommends re-entry policy and program improvements.</p> <p>Through the work of the Academy, the Virginia Community Re-entry Program (VCRP) was created. This community-based re-entry approach coordinates the efforts of local law enforcement, community service providers, the judicial system, the faith community, ex-offenders and ex-offenders' families to identify and minimize re-entry barriers. Local re-entry councils, which are composed of representatives from public agencies, businesses, non-profits and faith-based organizations, develop community re-entry plans. Council representatives then coordinate with jails, correctional centers and persons incarcerated to assist those leaving prison or jail in developing and carrying out re-entry plans. Completely voluntary to participants, these programs and other existing re-entry programs and projects, are designed to help strengthen families and improve public safety.</p> <p>Further information on DSS efforts to strengthen re-entry efforts is available at http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/prisoner_re-entry/index.cgi.</p>
Juvenile Justice	<p>On September 5, 2010 the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) began a pilot Video Visitation Program named Family Link. Its purpose is to enable residents and their family members to visit via video in collaborative sites operated by DJJ and non-profit agencies. This contact will augment and support the DJJ visitation program, while fostering a stronger family connection to enhance re-entry initiatives.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Currently Family Link is offered at Culpeper Juvenile Correctional Center, with additional DJJ facilities added as the program expands.</p> <p>At present, video visitation is available on Sundays at Saint James United Methodist Church in Hampton and is spearheaded by New Jubilee, Inc.</p>

RE-ENTRY (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Juvenile Justice	<p>In line with Governor McDonnell's priority of supporting successful re-entry, the Department of Juvenile Justice developed a Four-Year Strategic Plan for Juvenile Justice Re-entry.</p> <p>DJJ identifies the importance of improving outcomes for juvenile offenders released from commitment. In Virginia, approximately one-half of those released from a juvenile correctional center (JCC) in fiscal years 2004-2008 were re-arrested for a new crime within 12 months following release. Approximately 40 percent of those released were convicted of that new offense. At 36 months post-release, reconviction rates exceed 70 percent (for juveniles released in 2005).</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Four-Year Strategic Plan was adopted in October 2010. The Department adopted the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote public safety and juvenile offender accountability; • Ensure juvenile offenders have an individualized plan for re-entry from commitment through release from supervision; • Improve re-entry outcomes by enhancing the service delivery system to become more comprehensive, continuous, and evidence-based; • Improve re-entry outcomes by providing opportunities for progressively increased responsibility and freedom; • Develop and nurture existing partnerships and collaborations to support successful re-entry in the community; • Create an organizational culture that supports risk reduction and re-entry work with juvenile offenders; • Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the re-entry strategic plan; and • Engage juvenile offenders and families in successful re-entry.
Juvenile Justice	<p>Transitional Planning, which is intended to assist with re-entry and protect the public by providing parolees a combination of community supervision, accountability and treatment: addresses the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets factors predictive of reoffending behavior (family/living arrangement, substance abuse, education, mental health, vocational training, employability, peer groups, recreational interests, and leisure time); • Addresses criminogenic factors associated with recidivism; • Identifies appropriate treatment services and supervision needs; and • Addresses transitioning of school, housing, treatment, and employment. <p>The plan is an integral part of a juvenile's success and is implemented only through collaboration with Department of Correctional Education personnel, Juvenile Correctional Centers counselors, referring Parole Officers, re-enrollment coordinators, service providers, parents/family members, Department of Social Services, and community resources.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Further information is available at www.djj.virginia.gov/Initiatives/TPO.aspx.</p>
Juvenile Justice	<p>Transitional Programs and Reentry Services Related to the Future of Virginia Juvenile Correctional Centers</p> <p>As directed by Item 400 #1C of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) shall prepare a report on the future of juvenile correctional centers (JCCs) in the Commonwealth. The intended result is a plan for closing a JCC and reallocating the cost savings to transitional programs and reentry services in selected regional or local juvenile secure detention facilities in the 2012-14 biennium.</p> <p>In preparing this report, the department shall consult with impacted agencies and representatives. The report shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an analysis of JCC utilization rates; • an analysis of local and regional secure juvenile detention center utilization rates; • a determination of the appropriate number and types of beds, including security levels, necessary to manage the projected state-responsible and local-responsible juvenile population; and • an analysis of options for providing regional transitional programs and re-entry services at selected local and regional juvenile secure detention facilities. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The report is to be submitted to the Governor, the Secretary of Public Safety, and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by October 1, 2011.</p>

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
State Crime Commission	<p>The Virginia State Crime Commission is a criminal justice agency established in the legislative branch of government in the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>The purpose of the Commission is to study, report and make recommendations on all areas of public safety and protections.</p> <p>The Commission makes recommendations as it deems appropriate with respect to the foregoing matters, and coordinates the proposals and recommendations of all commissions and agencies as to legislation affecting crimes, crime control and criminal procedure.</p> <p>The Commission cooperates with the executive branch of state government, the Attorney General's Office and the judiciary who are, in turn, encouraged to cooperate with the Commission. The Commission also cooperates with governments and governmental agencies of other states and the United States.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking; Delegate Beverly Sherwood serves on the Commission.</p>	<p>2011 Commission meetings are scheduled for July 25, September 20, November 16, and December 6.</p> <p>Further information is available at http://vscc.virginia.gov/index.asp.</p>
Juvenile Justice	<p>In 1995, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) "to establish a community-based system of progressive intensive sanctions and services that correspond to the severity of offense and treatment needs."</p> <p>The purpose of VJCCCA is "to deter crime by providing immediate, effective punishment that emphasizes accountability of the juvenile offender for his actions as well as reduces the pattern of repeat offending" and is meant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a community-based system; • Be made up of progressive intensive sanctions and services; • Correspond with the severity of the offense and treatment needs; encourage communities to develop, implement, operate and evaluate programs and services responsive to juvenile offender needs and crime trends in their community; • Provide an adequate level of services available to every Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court; • Allow local autonomy and flexibility in addressing juvenile crime; • Encourage public and private partnership in the design and delivery of services; • Emphasize parental responsibility, through services that hold juveniles and families accountable for their behavior; • Facilitate a locally driven statewide planning process for allocating state resources; and • Provide adequate service capacity <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Item 399-F-3.d of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act directs the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), with the assistance of the Departments of Correctional Education and Corrections, the Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention, juvenile court service unit directors, juvenile and domestic relations district court judges, and advocacy groups, to provide a report on the types of programs supported by the VJCCCA and whether youth participating in such programs are statistically less likely to be arrested, adjudicated or convicted, or incarcerated for either misdemeanors or crimes that would be considered felonies if committed by an adult.</p> <p>Item 399-G further direct DJJ to consolidate the annual reporting requirements in §§ 2.2-222 and 66-13 and in Chapters 755 and 914, 1996 Acts of the General Assembly, concerning juvenile offender demographics. The consolidated report is to address the progress of VJCCCA programs, including the requirements in Article 12.1 of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1 (§16.1-309.2 et seq.) related to the number of juveniles served, average cost for residential and nonresidential services, the number of employees, and descriptions of the contracts entered into by localities. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Chairmen of the money committees, the Secretary of Public Safety, and the Department of Planning and Budget by the first day of the regular General Assembly session.</p>

JUVENILE JUSTICE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Juvenile Justice	<p>Item 400-D1-3 of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act directs DJJ to prepare a Report on the Future of Juvenile Correctional Centers (JCCs) in the Commonwealth. The report shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an analysis of JCC utilization rates; • an analysis of local and regional secure juvenile detention center utilization rates; • a determination of the appropriate number and types of beds, including security levels, necessary to manage the projected state-responsible and local-responsible juvenile population; and • an analysis of options for providing regional transitional programs and re-entry services at selected local and regional juvenile secure detention facilities. <p>In preparing the budget language directs DJJ to consult with representatives of the Departments of Correctional Education and Education, the Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention, juvenile court service unit directors, juvenile and domestic relations district court judges, juvenile advocacy groups, the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-entry Council, the Virginia Municipal League, and the Virginia Association of Counties. This consultation shall address the prospect of implementing a plan for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the closing of one state juvenile correctional center and reallocating the cost savings to regional transitional programs and re-entry services at selected local and regional juvenile secure detention facilities; and 2) identifying funding to be transferred for the purpose of reinvesting in such programs and services. The report shall detail the feasibility and core components of such a plan and shall include a fiscal analysis of the impact on localities and on the department of the plan. <p>The fiscal analysis shall address state responsibilities related to transportation, education, medication, assistance to support security services provided directly by the juvenile detention facility, and comprehensive programming provided on a contractual basis by private, for-profit and non-profit providers, based on evidenced-based practices.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The report shall be provided to the Governor, the Secretary of Public Safety, and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees on or before October 1, 2011.</p>
Board of Juvenile Justice	<p>The Board of Juvenile Justice, as specified in the Code, consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. The Board governs the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Appointments are subject to confirmation by the General Assembly.</p> <p>As set forth by §66-10 of the Code, Board responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and establish programmatic and fiscal policies governing the operation of programs and facilities for which the Department is responsible under this law; • ensure the development and implementation of a long-range youth services policy; • review and comment on all budgets and requests for appropriations for the Department prior to their submission to the Governor and on all applications for federal funds; • monitor the activities of the Department and its effectiveness in implementing the policies of the Board; • advise the Governor, Director and the General Assembly on matters relating to youth services; • promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title and other laws of the Commonwealth administered by the Director or the Department; • ensure the development of programs to educate citizens and elicit public support for the activities of the Department; and • establish length-of-stay guidelines for juveniles indeterminately committed to the Department and to make such guidelines available for public comment. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Board's "Long-range Youth Services Policy" (amended April 8, 2009; adopted June 8, 2005) is available at www.djj.virginia.gov.</p> <p>The Board typically meets five times each year. Its first 2011 meeting was held on April 13.</p>

JUVENILE JUSTICE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Criminal Justice Services	<p>In 1998 an Executive Order created the New Partnership Commission for Community Safety, charged with the responsibility of advising the Governor on new initiatives to “promote community safety, particularly youth and family safety.” The Commission assessed the needs of localities across the Commonwealth and assisted them in addressing their individual community safety issues.</p> <p>The Commission asked the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to recommend programs that foster the development of community safety initiatives at the local level. DCJS proposed, and the Commission approved, the Certified Crime Prevention Community Program. Based on a study conducted by the Virginia State Crime Commission in 1993, the goal of the program is to publicly recognize and certify localities that have implemented a defined set of community safety strategies as part of a comprehensive community safety/crime prevention effort.</p> <p>One of the first of its kind in the nation, the program is directed by DCJS’ Juvenile Services Division. The program encourages localities to develop and implement collaborative community safety plans within a flexible framework designed by the Commission. Furthermore, it provides an ongoing process by which communities can reassess and update their plans to address emerging community safety issues. To obtain certification, a locality must meet 12 core community safety elements/strategies augmented by a minimum of seven approved optional elements.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>A calendar of training events and further information about the planning process is available at www.dcjs.virginia.gov.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice is a 27-member group comprised of representatives of partner agencies and organizations from the juvenile justice, court services, criminal justice, law enforcement, social services, and behavioral health professions. The Committee includes one House of Delegates and one Senate of Virginia member.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee is co-sponsoring with the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) the annual Juvenile Justice “Making a Difference in Juvenile Justice” conference on June 6-7, 2011 in Williamsburg. The Commission on Youth is exhibiting at the Conference.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adolescent Brain: Substance Abuse and Mental Health • Bullying • Disproportionate Minority Contact • Components of Effective Juvenile Justice Programs • Re-Entry
State and Local Juvenile Justice Agencies	<p>Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention (VCJD) assists the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in developing standards, certification and evaluation related to detention programs and facilities. VCJD provides information and input to DJJ to aid in the formulation of detention policies and suggests improvements and/or modifications. VCJD also facilitates the collection and dissemination of information related to juvenile detention.</p> <p>Commission’s involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Council meets quarterly.</p>

JUVENILE JUSTICE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Juvenile Justice	<p>Founded in 1966, the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association is administered by an elected board of directors comprised of professionals from court services, Department of Juvenile Justice Administration, indigent defense, the judiciary, secure detention, juvenile correctional facilities, halfway houses, group homes, private providers and others with an interest in youth and family services. The Association, which participates as a member of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Coalition, is committed to child advocacy and advancing the professional interests and competencies of its members.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Association has established a Facebook group to provide an online forum for juvenile justice professionals to share information about recent juvenile justice publications and articles and upcoming juvenile justice events. Further information is available at www.thevjja.org.</p> <p>A series of state and local training events is offered. A statewide conference is scheduled for fall 2011.</p>
Juvenile Justice	<p>The Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) assesses risk, needs and protective factors and helps develop case plans for youth. The YASI includes a brief "pre-screening" version that arrives at an overall risk level as well as separate risk scores for legal history and social history (e.g., family, school and other adjustment domains). Much of the information for the YASI pre-screen is available from the JTS system and the remainder from a brief interview with the youth and/or family. The pre-screen generates a risk score on a four-point scale from No Risk through High Risk.</p> <p>The full YASI instrument examines and generates risk and protective scores for each of 10 domains, as well as overall risk classifications. These domains are legal history, family, school, community and peers, alcohol and drugs, mental health, aggression, (pro- and anti-social) attitudes, (social and cognitive) skills, and employment and free time. The full YASI will be employed for pre- and post-dispositional reports and case planning activities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>On July 1, 2010, the YASI became the required risk assessment tool for all court service units (CSUs). All have completed the first phase of training; several have completed both phases. Additional implementation of the YASI (e.g., case planning) is planned for the near future.</p> <p>Further information is available at www.orbispartners.com/frame.htm. (Click on "yasi.") Included on the site is an informational PowerPoint presentation.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The Virginia Spirit of Youth Award is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (ACJJ). Its purpose is to recognize and celebrate a young adult who has made great strides following involvement with the juvenile justice system; has overcome personal obstacles; and is today making significant contributions to society.</p> <p>The award also provides DCJS, the ACJJ, and the public with an important opportunity to learn from a young person's direct experience about the hard work and dedication it takes to build a better life, and how juvenile justice professionals and systems can most effectively be of help.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Fourth annual Spirit of Youth Award will be given in front of a statewide audience at the June 6, 2011 luncheon held in conjunction with the JJDP "Making a Difference" conference. The award recipient will be asked to share their experience and what made a difference in their life.</p> <p>Nominations for the award were received from a statewide constituency.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>SJR 358 (2003) directed the Commission on Youth to update biennially its publication, the <i>Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs</i> (House Document 9, 2003). The purpose of the <i>Collection</i> is to identify effective treatment modalities and practices for children, including juvenile offenders, with mental health treatment needs. Moreover, utilization of evidence-based practices in the field of children's mental health may offer the Commonwealth cost savings.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Commission on Youth Study</p>	<p>In 2010, the Commission completed the most recent update of the <i>Collection 4th Edition</i>. The publication, which provides an updated listing of evidence-based practices for youth with mental health disorders, is tailored for parents, caregivers, educators, service providers and others seeking current research on evidence-based practices. Additions to the <i>4th Edition</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • screening and assessment instruments; • juvenile offenders; • antidepressants and the risk of suicide; and • commonly-used acronyms. <p>Commission staff has sent letters to all affected agencies and providers requesting that they provide a link to the <i>Collection</i> on their websites. Staff has also met with representatives from the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) to discuss the inclusion of evidence-based practices for child mental health in all appropriate post-graduate programs.</p> <p>The 2011 draft study plan for the <i>Collection, 5th Edition</i> was approved by the Commission on Youth at its April 5, 2011 meeting. The Commission will conduct the next biennial update during 2011 and update the section on Intellectual Disabilities. The update will also include newly-published and/or revised resources in the field of child behavioral health.</p>
Legislative Services	<p>The Autism Advisory Council is established in the legislative branch to promote coordination of services and resources among agencies involved in the delivery of services to Virginians with autism spectrum disorders and to increase public awareness of such services and resources. The Council was created by legislation (SB 1269, Houck) which passed the 2011 General Assembly.</p> <p>Funds were included in the 2011 Enrolled Budget Bill. The Council will expire on July 1, 2014.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Meetings for 2011 have not been announced.</p>
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>Operation of Virginia's Publicly-funded Behavioral Health and Developmental Services System</p> <p>Item 304-N of the 2011-2012 Appropriations Act directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) to submit an annual report on the operation of Virginia's publicly-funded behavioral health and developmental services system. The report shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a brief narrative and data on the numbers of individuals receiving state facility services of CSB services, including purchased inpatient psychiatric services; • the types and amounts of services received by these individuals, • CSA and state facility service capacities, staffing, revenues, and expenditures; and • major new initiatives implemented during the past year and information on the accomplishment of systemic outcome and performance measures during the year. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The BHDS is to submit its report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than December 1 of each year for the preceding fiscal year.</p> <p>The first annual report, due December 1, 2010, was published as <i>Report Document 382</i> (2010) and is available on the General Assembly's Legislative Information System at http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD3822010/\$file/RD382.pdf.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>Planning Process to Identify Steps For Providing Child Mental Health Services Close to the Children's Homes</p> <p>Item 304-M of the 2010-2012 Appropriations Act directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) to implement a comprehensive planning process to identify concrete steps to provide children's mental health services as close to the children's homes as possible. Budget language directs the BHDS to include includes a wide variety of stakeholders (including families and advocates) to ensure that there are community-based children's mental health services throughout the Commonwealth.</p> <p>The target population is children through age 17 who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a mental health problems; • may have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems; • may be in contact with the juvenile court system; • may require emergency services; or • may require long term community mental health and other supports. <p>The process is intended to identify the mental health and substance abuse services needed to help families keep their children at home and functioning in the community and should define the role that the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents will play in this effort. The plan should establish and rank recommendations based on greatest priority and identify future funding associated with each recommendation. Participants should include input from community services boards, state and private and in-patient facilities, the Department of Social Services, Juvenile Justice, Education, and Medical Assistance Services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Commissioner shall report findings to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2011.</p> <p>The interim report, published as <i>Report Document 240</i> (2010), is available on the General Assembly's Legislative Information System at http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2402010/\$file/RD240.pdf.</p>
Office for Protection and Advocacy	<p>The Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy has an Advisory Council for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Program (PAIMI). This Council, which is federally-funded, promotes the provision of legal and advocacy services for adults and children with mental illness who live in a hospital or other facility providing care and treatment for their illness.</p> <p>The Advisory Council is comprised of 15-20 members representative of Virginia's diverse culture and geography. Membership includes individuals who have received or are receiving mental health services and family members (at least 60 percent), attorneys, mental health professionals, individuals knowledgeable about mental illness, service providers, and at least one parent of a minor child with mental illness.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>At the January 8, 2011 meeting, Council members discussed what would be helpful to members in seeking to become better advocates in the community and strong role models in their communities, including print materials, Council training sessions, peer training related to experiences in the mental health field.</p> <p>The Council met April 16, with a third meeting scheduled for July 16.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>Development of a Formulary for the Dispensing of Medications</p> <p>Item 304-O of the 2010-2012 amended Appropriation Act directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to coordinate with the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice, Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and Virginia Regional Jail Association, in the to offenders who have been released from prisons, juvenile correctional centers, and jails that will provide consistency as those offenders move from incarceration in the criminal justice system to being served by community behavioral health programs.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Not less than 30 days prior to implementing the changes authorized in this paragraph, the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services will report to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees the proposed changes to the formulary and any additional costs or savings associated with the change.</p>
Association of Community Services Boards	<p>Virginia Child and Family Services Council, which is one of six councils of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, addresses issues pertaining to service delivery to children and their families. It also provides a forum for information sharing and networking among the respective Task Force members. The Council collaborates with the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS) and other related state agencies to assure consistent policies, protocols, procedures and data collection methods in service delivery and reporting.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Council's 2011 Development and Training Conference was May 4-6 in Williamsburg. The conference topic was "Leading Dynamic Change: Bold Directions in a New Environment." Additional 2011 conferences will be scheduled: one legislative and one related to public policy. Other training opportunities are offered through E-learning, which is described further on the Council's website at www.vacsb.org.</p> <p>The Council meets quarterly on the first Friday of the month. Agenda items for the March 4, 2011 meeting included a budget Briefing and updates related to Commonwealth Center for Children, DBHDS Technical Assistance, Public Policy, and VACSB. Commission on Youth staff presented on the newly-released <i>Collection of Evidence-based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs, 4th Edition</i>.</p> <p>The Council meets next on June 3.</p>
Education/Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>Establishment of a new Center of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorders has been announced by the Department of Education (DOE) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The collaboration between DOE and VCU's Schools of Education and Medicine will serve as a focal point for research, professional development and technical assistance in implementing research-based effective practices and comprehensive services for students having autism. The center is funded through a start-up grant from DOE.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>A consortium of institutes of higher education will provide coursework leading to board certification in behavioral analysis and opportunities to prepare teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and related service providers to more effectively serve students.</p>
Commonwealth Autism Service	<p>Formed by a group of parents of children with autism who recognized service gaps for people in Virginia with disabilities, Commonwealth Autism Service established itself as The Autism Program of Virginia (TAP-VA) under the umbrella of the ARC of Virginia. It has evolved into a leader in the implementation of a statewide system of services to maximize the potential and quality of life of each Virginian on the autism spectrum. To support that goal, it partners with agencies and organizations to provide education and training on a range of issues related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, judges, attorneys and magistrates, school resource officers, parents, childcare providers, and court security officers. There are nine Autism Action Groups throughout Virginia, with more planned.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Conference Participant</p>	<p>Its 2011 annual conference was held March 8-9 in Richmond. The two-day conference addressed Medicaid-funded treatment options, assessment and other services available in the school setting, behavioral consultations, genetic considerations impacting ASD, and related topics.</p> <p>A calendar of statewide news and events, along with further information on the organization's outreach, is available at www.autismva.org.</p>

MENTAL HEALTH *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Voices for Virginia's Children	<p>Voices for Virginia's Children is a statewide, privately funded, non-partisan awareness and advocacy organization that builds support for practical public policies to improve the lives of children. A recognized leader in child advocacy, Voices mobilizes support for initiatives by conducting research, developing policies, building coalitions, and helping people articulate their support for children.</p> <p>Voices' Campaign for Children's Mental Health is a coordinated effort to improve Virginia's child mental health system. The campaign brings together advocates, parents, treatment professionals, organizations and others whose goal is to make mental health services more available and accessible to children in need. Their "1 in 5 kids" promotion highlights the number of children in the U.S. not receiving the mental health treatment they need.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Voices commemorated May 3rd as Child Mental Health Awareness Day statewide with the release of a new report, <i>Children's Mental Health in Virginia: System Deficiencies and Unknown Outcomes</i>.</p> <p><i>A Guide to Understanding and Using Data for Effective Advocacy</i> is a second new resource tool to assist child advocates in promoting data driven public policies and programs.</p> <p>Additional information is available at http://vakids.org. Specific information about the Campaign is available at www.1in5kids.org.</p>

HEALTH

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Joint Commission on Health Care	<p>The Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) was established as a standing commission of the Virginia General Assembly in 1992. JCHC seeks through its research, recommendations, and legislative actions to "ensure that the Commonwealth as provider, financier, and regulator adopts the most cost-effective and efficacious means of delivery of health care services so that the greatest number of Virginians receive quality health care." (Code of Virginia §§ 30-168 through 170).</p> <p>The Joint Commission is comprised of 18 legislative members. Eight members of the Senate are appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and 10 members from the House of Delegates are appointed by the Speaker of the House. In addition, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources serves as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Commission. Delegate Benjamin L. Cline chairs the Commission.</p> <p>JCHC has two standing subcommittees focusing on issues involving 1) Behavioral Health Care and 2) Healthy Living/Health Services.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking; Senators Harry Blevins and Edd Houck and Delegates Robert Brink and Christopher Peace serve on the Commission.</p>	<p>2011 meetings are scheduled for May 17, June 14, September 19, October 17, and November 22.</p> <p>Draft study plans for 2011 legislative initiatives will be presented at the JCHC May 17 meeting.</p> <p>Further information on the JCHC is available at http://jchc.virginia.gov.</p>
Social Services	<p>Section 63.2-214.2 of the Code directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make information available about Shaken Baby Syndrome and resources for help and support for caretakers in a printable format, as well as in an audiovisual format, available to the public on its website. Further, DSS is directed to provide the information to every child welfare program required to be licensed at the time of initial licensure and to foster and adoptive parents and other persons, upon request.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>More information about shaken baby syndrome may be found at www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cps/shaken_baby.cgi.</p>
Health	<p>Virginia Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (VECCS) functions as a statewide strategic planning Work Group with the purpose of supporting state maternal and child health agencies and their partner organizations in collaborative efforts to strengthen early childhood system of services for young children and their families.</p> <p>This public/private partnership is part of a five year initiative launched by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to support states' efforts to build comprehensive early childhood systems.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Further information on Early Childhood Health is available at www.vahealth.org/childadolescenthealth/EarlyChildhoodHealth.</p>

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>The Interagency Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Health, Education, Mental Health, Aging, Corrections Education, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, CSBs, private and public agencies with an interest in suicide prevention, as well as the Commission on Youth. Its purpose is to advise the Department of Health (VDH) on its suicide prevention activities.</p> <p>The VDH Division of Injury and Violence Prevention's Suicide Prevention Program coordinates statewide training for school personnel, human service providers, faith communities and others on suicide prevention and intervention, including identification of persons at-risk of suicide, screening, counseling and referral.</p> <p>The Code contains policy addressing suicidal students in K-12 educational settings and institutions of higher learning.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Committee Member</p>	<p>Suicide prevention efforts in Virginia are a collaborative effort headed by VDH, which involves participants from many disciplines. The program was a recommendation of the Commission on Youth's Suicide Prevention Plan, <i>House Document 29</i> (2001).</p> <p>In addition to the committee's quarterly meetings, VDH has established a Work Group of local service providers: the Virginia Network for Suicide Prevention Coalitions. This group supports both new and existing suicide prevention efforts at the community level.</p> <p>A brief overview of VDH programs and resources can be viewed at www.vahealth.org. Suicide prevention programs are currently funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, pursuant to the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.</p>
Health	<p>Bright Futures Virginia was developed in 2000 as a broad Department of Health initiative to address child and adolescent health. Convened as a public-private Advisory Board, Bright Futures was implemented as the state standard for child and adolescent comprehensive health care in 2001. Bright Futures' goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster partnerships between families, health professionals, and communities; • Promote desired social, developmental, and health outcomes of infants, children, and adolescents; • Increase family knowledge, skills, and participation in health-promoting and prevention activities; and • Enhance health professionals' knowledge, skills, and practice of developmentally appropriate health care in the context of family and community. <p>Since its inception, Bright Futures has been funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the direction of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Healthy Virginians 2010 identified Bright Futures implementation as a strategy for achieving 18 of its 54 stated objectives.</p> <p>Bright Futures' guidelines for child health in Virginia support the national Healthy People promotion and disease prevention objectives for mothers, infants, children and adolescents. These guidelines were developed as a resource for child health professionals and ancillary staff, public and private insurers, health departments, community health centers, schools, child development programs, parents, educators, leaders of managed care organizations, and others.</p> <p>Bright Futures has launched a website - www.healthyfuturesva.com - in cooperation with James Madison University and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), as well as a six-module web course "Promoting Child and Adolescent Health: Bright Futures and EPSDT."</p>
Health	<p>The Council on Virginia's Future is an advisory board to the Governor and the General Assembly that supports the development and implementation of a Roadmap for Virginia's future. Implementation is the responsibility of elected and appointed officials, regional and community leaders, and the people of Virginia. The Council plays a leadership role for positive change by providing a forum where legislative, executive branch, and citizen leaders can come together for work that transcends election cycles, partisanship, limited organizational boundaries, and short-term thinking. The Council regularly reviews progress on implementation of the Roadmap process and updates the Roadmap as needed.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Further information on the Council is available at www.future.virginia.gov/plansprogress.php.</p> <p>The 2010 Virginia Report can be accessed at www.future.virginia.gov/docs/VirginiaReport/2010_Virginia_%20Report%28Web%29_compressed.pdf.</p>

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>Healthy Child Care Virginia (HCCV) focuses on initiatives related to healthy behaviors in childcare. Its goal is to promote the healthy development of all children in child care, including those with special health needs, to increase access to preventive health services, and to create safe physical environments for children.</p> <p>Objectives of the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting a safe and healthy child care environment for all children, including those with special health needs • Reducing the spread of communicable diseases • Reducing medically attended injuries • Increasing up-to-date immunizations • Increasing nutritional status • Improving knowledge among families and providers about the inclusion of special health needs children in child day care. This includes children with asthma, speech and other developmental disabilities, neurobehavioral needs (ADHD, ADD, etc.), nutrition and physical activity and other diagnosed conditions (i.e., diabetes) • Optimizing mental health for children • Increasing oral hygiene practices • Increasing the number of children with health insurance coverage <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>HCCV promotes on its website a range of resources for child care. Further information is available at www.vahealth.org/childadolescenthealth/EarlyChildhoodHealth/HealthyChildCareVA.</p>
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth	<p>The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) (formerly the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation), has established Regional Advisory Boards to provide a local connection between VFHY and communities throughout the state. VFHY is funded through Virginia's share of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement.</p> <p>Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1999, the Foundation has historically led a statewide effort to reduce and prevent youth tobacco use. The 2009 General Assembly changed both the Foundation's name and expanded its mission to include reducing childhood obesity in the Commonwealth (HB 2456 (O'Bannon)/SB 1112 (Northam).</p> <p>The Foundation promotes healthy living habits to Virginia's children and adolescents through a variety of efforts, including: statewide educational prevention programs in schools, community centers and afterschool programs; youth-targeted marketing and advertising; funding research and enforcement of Virginia's tobacco access-laws.</p> <p>A Healthy Youth Day commemoration was established by the Virginia General Assembly and is sponsored each January 20 by the Foundation.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Regional Advisory Board Member</p>	<p>Current Foundation funding opportunities Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Routes to School Mini Grants: Prevention Connections is offering \$2,000 mini grants to Title I schools in Virginia to start safe walking/biking routes to school. • Vending Machine Mini Grants: Prevention Connections is offering \$500 mini grants to schools in Virginia to encourage stocking vending machines with healthy food and drink options. <p>On January 20, 2011, Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell and approximately 350 students from Chesterfield County celebrated the annual Healthy Youth Day on the Capitol grounds. Approximately 5,600 participated in statewide events, which celebrated physical fitness and healthy living. Also during the 2011 General Assembly Session, the legislative Allied Health Caucus meeting focused on the childhood obesity initiative.</p> <p>On April 5-6, the Foundation hosted a "Reducing Tobacco Use" conference in Newport News.</p> <p>On October 4-5, the Foundation will co-host with Prevention Connections the 2011 Statewide Summit on Childhood Obesity. The Summit will be held in Richmond. Virginia's comprehensive Childhood Obesity survey results were released at the 2010 conference, which was chaired by Virginia's First Lady and co-sponsored by the Foundation's sister nonprofit organization Prevention Connections. This first conference was inspired by the CDC's Weight of the Nation conference, which aided participants in setting an agenda for Virginia.</p> <p>Further information is available at www.healthyouthva.org/index.asp.</p>

HEALTH (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Health	<p>The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Commonwealth's Healthy Approach and Mobilization Plan for Inactivity, Obesity and Nutrition (CHAMPION) has completed work towards a comprehensive statewide plan to reduce obesity in Virginia through nutrition and exercise.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Following VDH Family Health Services Review, the working document has been presented to the new State Committee being appointed by the Governor. The Obesity Reduction Plan is available in both summary and as a full report at www.vahealth.org.</p>
Medical Assistance Services	<p>The Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP-PAC) Advisory Committee, established by the 2005 General Assembly, works to improve outreach and enrollment of FAMIS and to provide input on policies, operations, utilization of services and the health outcomes of children in FAMIS and FAMIS Plus.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee meets quarterly.</p> <p>In addition, subcommittees for Retention, Access, and Utilization meet periodically as needed.</p>
Health	<p>All state-funded early childhood home visiting programs have come together at the state level through the Home Visiting Consortium, which has as its goals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the role of home visiting in improving the health and well-being of young children; • Review the current publicly funded Virginia home visiting services for pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5 years; • Increase local and state collaborative efforts in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Virginia's home visiting services; and • Recommend changes in home visiting system which will improve birth outcomes and enhance early childhood development. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Information about the Home Visiting Consortium is available on the Department of Health website www.vahealth.org.</p>
Prevention Connections	<p>Prevention Connections, a Virginia-based 501(c)(3) organization since 2004, was established to work with individuals and communities to achieve optimal health through tobacco-use and childhood-obesity prevention initiatives.</p> <p>Its Board of Directors consists of nine volunteer members, including three interlocking directors from the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY).</p> <p>Working in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the VFHY, Prevention Connections is beginning work on large-scale initiatives such as reducing smoking on college campuses and providing cessation services to parents of young children.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Prevention Connections co-hosted with the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) the Virginia Statewide Summit on Childhood Obesity in Richmond on May 17-18, 2010. The conference was attended by health, government and educational professionals and policy makers and featured nationally recognized experts in school, community, and health care initiatives. Using the theme "Weight of the State," the summit focused on the myriad of complex issues which are affecting childhood obesity in Virginia. Virginia's First Lady Maureen McDonnell was honorary chair for the summit.</p>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Secretary of Public Safety	<p>The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) is authorized under Section 2.2-118 of the Code, enacted by the 2000 Virginia General Assembly, in order to assist in the coordination of the substance abuse prevention activities of the Commonwealth, review substance abuse prevention program expenditures by agencies of the Commonwealth, and determine the direction and appropriateness of such expenditures.</p> <p>GOSAP awards and administers federal grant funds apportioned to Virginia under the Governor's discretionary portion of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) funds allocated to Virginia by the U.S. Department of Education, under the <i>No Child Left Behind Act of 2001</i>.</p> <p>The GOSAP Collaborative, comprised of 12 state agencies and the Governor's Office, was formally established under Executive Directive 4 in November 2006. It serves as the principal representative body within the Virginia prevention system for state-level prevention specialists, leaders and program-fund administrators.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>GOSAP has announced its 2010-2011 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SADFSCA) Grant Program. GOSAP SADFSCA grant programs are intended to supplement the SADFSCA funds that flow directly from the DOE to local school divisions for youth substance abuse, gang involvement and violence prevention programming. A total of \$515,405 has been awarded to 17 projects which support youth substance abuse and violence prevention efforts.</p> <p>State agencies participating in the GOSAP Collaborative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) • Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) • Department of Education (DOE) • Department of Fire Programs (DFP) • Department of Health (VDH) • Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) • Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) • Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) • Department of Social Services (DSS) • Virginia National Guard (VNG) • Virginia State Police (VSP) • Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) <p>Each participating agency has some significant degree of involvement in the Commonwealth's alcohol, tobacco and other drugs prevention efforts, either through funding provided to local- and community-level organizations, direct service provision to youth and families, or direct policy development at the state and/or federal levels to guide Virginia's overall prevention community.</p> <p>Further information is available at www.gosap.virginia.gov.</p>
Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>The Interagency Adolescent Substance Abuse Workgroup, formerly Project TREAT, is managed through the Office of Child and Family Services of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.</p> <p>The workgroup's goal is to develop and improve coordination of substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment services for adolescents across Virginia.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Workgroup Member</p>	<p>In April 2010, a questionnaire was administered to members to help the Advisory Group prioritize the identified goals and update the existing workplan to reflect changes related to focus, membership, meeting venue, and frequency of meetings.</p>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Alcohol Beverage Control/Health/Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	<p>On the state level, Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCOVA), which receives Safe and Drug-Free Schools funding, reflects partnerships on the state and local level to prevent substance abuse.</p> <p>On the national level, the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) for Building Effective Coalitions was created by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to assist coalitions in developing the infrastructure for community-based, public health approaches to effective and sustainable reductions in alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse.</p> <p>Coalition initiatives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create activities free from substance abuse and violence; • Prevent alcohol, drug, and tobacco use by youth; • Teach our children how to be safe and resist peer pressure; • Enhance our sense of family and community; and • Promote positive character development. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>On March 23-25, 2011, CCOVA offered community training related to "Evaluation for Community-based Substance Abuse Prevention." The Richmond event was funded in part through a federal OJJDP grant through the Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage Control.</p> <p>In addition to SAMHSA and the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control, current national and state partners in 2011 CCOVA planning include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) • Virginia Department of Education (DOE) • Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) • Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) • Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) • White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) • SAARA of Virginia • Virginia Association of Drug Courts (VADC) • James Madison University • Virginians for a Healthy Future <p>Further information on CCOVA initiatives is available at www.ccova.org.</p>
Alcohol Beverage Control	<p>Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (YADAPP) is a youth leadership program empowering teens to become involved in keeping their schools and communities alcohol and drug free. Each year YADAPP holds its Summer Leadership Conference for approximately 600 Virginia high school students and adults. Since 1984, YADAPP seeks to help teens change their lives through leadership opportunities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>YADAPP's 2011 Summer Leadership Conference is expanded to five days. The event, which draws students and adults from throughout Virginia will be held at Longwood University July 18–22, 2011.</p> <p>More information on YADAPP is provided at www.yadapp.com. Youth can also become a "friends" of YADAPP Guy on the official YADAPP Facebook page.</p> <p>ABC credits its "Do Not Sell" stickers with preventing underage sales. Last year, the compliance rate went up four percentage points to 90 percent compliance. The updated stickers, which are easy-to-read tools that help sellers check IDs, were created using two different colors, one for alcohol, one for tobacco. Bold colors make the dates clearly visible to consumers and sellers.</p> <p>Another compliance tool is the "Ask 4 ID" training video, a four-minute film to help sellers and servers prevent underage alcohol and tobacco sales ID. This is available for preview at http://www.youtube.com/vaabc.</p>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE *(continued)*

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Alcohol Beverage Control	<p>The Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) has an Education Section dedicated to developing initiatives for Alcohol Education. The Section's mission is to promote responsible consumption and distribution by licensees of alcoholic beverages to those of age and zero tolerance for underage consumption through the use of prevention initiatives that focus on environmental, educational and information dissemination strategies.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>As Miss Virginia, Caitlin Uze partnered with Virginia ABC to speak at more than 40 schools statewide, encouraging students to make healthy choices and stressing the importance of saying no to alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances. Administered by Virginia ABC and funded by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Miss Uze's Healthy Lifestyles for Virginia's Youth" program has been presented throughout Virginia.</p> <p>Winners of the "Alcohol Has No Place!" poster competition for Virginia middle school students grades 6-8 will be announced on April 11, 2011. 549 Virginia students submitted entries. Three prizes will be awarded, along with 25 certificates of special recognition. Prizes include an Apple iPad with WiFi, an Apple iPod Touch, and an Apple iPod Nano. The winning poster will also be featured on the ABC Web site, and may be used for future brochures, posters, billboards, and other promotional materials.</p> <p>The ABC website provides resources for parents and youth, as well as the community at large, on issues related to drinking laws and responsible consumption by youth of age. One recently-added topic is Energy Drinks and the need to check labels for alcohol content.</p> <p>Further information on ABC initiatives is available at www.abc.virginia.gov/education.</p>

EDUCATION

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Commission on Youth	<p>Comparison of Academic Achievement in Virginia and in Leading Industrialized Nations — During the 2011 General Assembly Session, Senator Yvonne B. Miller introduced Senate Joint Resolution 320, which directed the Commission on Youth to study how Virginia school children compare academically to students in other countries. The resolution directed the Commission to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare the academic achievement of Virginia's students with that of students internationally for the past five years, especially in reading, mathematics, and science; • identify features in the education systems of other countries that rank higher than the United States that may contribute to the academic success of their students; • determine whether any of these features may be adapted for use in Virginia and the cost of implementation; • determine whether and what changes in Virginia's public education system are warranted; and • consider other matters related to the objectives of this resolution and recommend feasible and appropriate options and alternatives. <p>The Senate reported the resolution; however, members of the House Committee on Rules did not.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Commission on Youth Study</p>	<p>The draft study plan was approved by the Commission on Youth at its April 5, 2011 meeting.</p> <p>The Commission on Youth will receive study findings and recommendations for action prior to the 2012 General Assembly Session.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>HJ 625 (Bell), adopted by the 2011 General Assembly, would require the Department of Education (DOE) to study Local School Divisions' Antibullying Policies. DOE is directed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) review and compare antibullying measures in the student codes of conduct from each school division; (ii) compare existing policies with the Department's model policy for codes of student conduct, and (iii) determine if improvements to existing policies are warranted, in order to more effectively combat bullying in Virginia's public schools. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Department is to complete its meetings and submit its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 30, 2011.</p>
Education	<p>In 2009, HB 727 (Cole) was adopted creating the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Virginia Council). The Virginia Council was formed to assist in easing the transition of the children of military families into school as a result of frequent moves and deployment of their parents. Virginia joins other states participating in the compact.</p> <p>The Virginia Council is composed of one member of the House of Delegates; one member of the Senate; four nonlegislative citizen members, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children; and the governor or his designee. Senator John Miller chairs the Council.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Following two Virginia Council meetings in 2010, the Council met January 5, 2011 to discuss the efforts made by school divisions to streamline and ease the transfer of military children into and out of Virginia schools, particularly those in Hampton Roads. The Council also discussed efforts to assist these children with varying needs while the children are enrolled in school.</p> <p>The Council has received public comments regarding the desire of school divisions to receive information on the Compact as well as the flow of federal Impact Aid dollars to Virginia school divisions. It was noted that this information is very much needed by military school liaison officers working with parents and school divisions.</p>
Education	<p>Senate Bill 737 (2010, Newman)/House Bill 1390 (2010, Lingamfelter, Peace, Dance), passed by the 2010 General Assembly, establish in the Code a Pre-certification by the Board of Education and Appeal Process for charter applicants denied by local School Board. The initiative is first of three components of Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education reform agenda.</p> <p>This legislation requires the public charter school applicant to submit its proposed charter application to the Board of Education (BOE) for review, comment, and a pre-certification recommendation prior to the submission of such application to a local school board. The BOE review must include a recommendation as to whether the application should be approved by the local school division. The legislation also allows a public charter school applicant to appeal a local school board decision to the BOE.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Governor's Office opted not to apply in 2010 for Race to the Top federal grant funds.</p> <p>The Board of Education's Charter School Committee is a standing committee which reviews any proposed public charter school application that has been submitted by the applicant to the Board of Education and comments on the application's feasibility, curriculum, and financial soundness. At the November 17, 2010 meeting, members reviewed the required elements of a Virginia charter school application and required elements for Board review (§ 22.1-121.8 and § 22.1-212.0 of the Code) as well as review of other states' policies and procedures compared to the required elements of the Code. No meetings have been announced for 2011.</p> <p>Further information about Virginia's provisions for charter schools is available at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/charter_schools/index.shtml.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>Senate Bill 738 (2010, Newman)/House Bill 1388 (2010, Bell, Richard P.), passed by the 2010 General Assembly, establish guidelines for virtual school programs for local school boards in Virginia to offer their students. The initiative is the second component of Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education reform agenda.</p> <p>The intent of the legislation is to expand the reach of virtual school programs such that students from anywhere in Virginia can receive the services of highly qualified, Virginia-certified teachers without being limited by classroom walls. This program also provides an alternative to students who might struggle in traditional classroom environments but who, under the new law, can learn in an environment that better suits their needs. At-risk or disadvantaged students will be afforded increased access to innovation and opportunities.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Any Virginia college or university which operates an approved teacher education program can establish virtual school program partnerships with eligible public schools. Teachers working in these colleges/universities must be employees of those colleges/universities and be licensed by the Board or eligible for such license.</p> <p>Criteria for approving and monitoring multidivision online providers were approved by the Board of Education on November 18, 2010. The criteria and processes are designed to ensure that Virginia students receive high quality educational services and that instruction and courses offered by multidivision online providers are aligned with the Standards of Learning and presented by highly qualified teachers.</p>
Education	<p>Senate Bill 736 (2010, Newman)/House Bill 1389 (2010, McClellan and Peace), passed by the 2010 General Assembly, establish in the Code the College Partnership Laboratory Schools which encourage cooperation and coordination between institutions of higher education and K-12 education. The initiative is third component of Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education reform agenda. The legislation is patterned after the legislation originally offered by former Delegate Dwight Jones.</p> <p>College lab schools are said to foster flexibility, innovation, and autonomy outside of the traditional public school system, thus giving students K-12 an opportunity to attend a school that best fits their individual learning style, be there a need for remedial help or advanced specialized study. Students attending lab schools can benefit from resources available to higher education institutions without the limitations or administrative constraints of more traditional schools.</p> <p>The laboratory schools are being created by a contract between the higher education institute and the Board of Education.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Students must be residents of Virginia in order to qualify. Selection is made by a lottery system.</p> <p>The Multidivision Online Provider application timeline for the 2011-2012 school year has closed. The Department received 14 applications from the following potential providers: Apex Learning, Brigham Young University, Chesterfield County Public Schools, CompuHigh, Connections Academy, EdOptions Online, Edison Learning, Education 2020, Florida Virtual Schools, Giant Campus, Jefferson County High School, K-12 Virtual Schools, Virtual High School Global Consortium, and York County Public Schools.</p> <p>The providers were scheduled to be announced by mid-April 2011.</p>
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	<p>Improving Coordination Among K-12, Community Colleges, and Four-year Institutions — Senate Joint Resolution 32 (2010, McDougle) directs JLARC staff to conduct a two-year study of the role of the Secretary of Education in improving coordination, with the goal of better aligning the education and training of students with the State's workforce needs. (Under current law, the Secretary is responsible for the Department of Education and the State Council for Higher Education [SCHEV] but does not have statutory responsibility for coordination of education.)</p> <p>In conducting its study, JLARC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the statutory authority and duties of the Secretary of Education in overseeing education from K-12 through higher education; • consider possible ways to improve coordination of education; and • consider how to better direct students toward education and training that will meet the State's workforce needs. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>JLARC plans to brief its members at a Fall 2011 meeting.</p> <p>JLARC must submit an executive summary of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and 2011 and 2012 Sessions of the General Assembly.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission	<p>Early Reading Proficiency and Comprehension Senate Joint Resolution 3 (2010, Miller, J.C.) directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to conduct a two-year study of ways to promote and ensure early reading proficiency and comprehension among third graders in the public schools.</p> <p>In conducting its study, JLARC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the number of third graders who read at grade level; • Rank the school divisions according to the number of third graders who passed the most recent third grade reading test; • Identify best practices utilized by school divisions with the highest percentage of third graders who read at grade level; • Examine the findings and recommendations of state and national studies pertaining to the efficacy of early reading proficiency and comprehension and its relationship to academic success, and offer recommendations appropriate for implementation in Virginia; and • Determine strategies to increase the number of third graders who pass the third grade reading test and ways to improve and sustain the early reading proficiency of third grade students. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>JLARC must submit an executive summary of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and 2011 and 2012 Sessions of the General Assembly.</p> <p>Its 2010 workplan is available at www.jlarc.virginia.gov/meetings/May10/Workplan10brf.pdf.</p> <p>Its 2011 workplan will be acted on at JLARC's May 9, 2011 meeting.</p>
Education	<p>Teacher Performance Pay Pilots Item 132-C.34 of the 2010-2012 Appropriations Act allocated \$3 million to provide competitive grants to school divisions to pilot models for awarding performance pay for instructional personnel in hard-to-staff schools, as determined by the Department of Education. The initiative is a centerpiece of Governor McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education-reform agenda.</p> <p>To be eligible to participate, a school must meet at least four of eight criteria associated with schools that have difficulty recruiting and retaining effective teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation; • Average attendance • Percentage of students in special education; • Percentage of limited-English proficient students; • Percentage of teachers with provisional licensure; • Percentage of special education teachers with provisional licensure; • Percentage of first-year teachers; and • Number of first-year teachers in a critical-shortage area. <p>In applying for funding, school divisions may designate all teachers within a hard-to-staff school as eligible for performance pay or limit eligibility to specific groups of teachers, e.g., reading teachers. The maximum amount a teacher may receive is \$5,000.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>A request for proposals (RFP) from divisions with eligible schools to participate in the state-funded Virginia Performance-Pay Incentives initiative has been posted on the DOE website.</p> <p>Applications are due June 15, 2011. Award amounts will be announced during the summer before the 2011-2012 school year.</p> <p>The Board of Education (BOE) approved evaluation guidelines and performance standards at its April 28 meeting to ensure that performance-pay decisions are fair for all teachers and based on objective criteria. Following award notification, participating division administrators will be trained to implement these performance standards and evaluation criteria.</p> <p>Further information is available at www.doe.virginia.gov.</p>
Education	<p>Critical Teacher Shortage Through the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program, undergraduate students who are Scholarship recipients and who meet eligibility criteria may fulfill their teaching obligation by accepting a teaching position in a school defined by the Board of Education (BOE) as having a critical teacher shortage.</p> <p>As stipulated in Item 131-H.1 of the amended 2010-2012 Appropriations Act, scholarship amounts are based on \$3,720 per year for full-time students (prorated for part-time students).</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Department of Education is required to report annually on the critical shortage teaching areas in Virginia.</p> <p>The 2010-2011 annual report — <i>House Document 99</i> (2010) — is available at http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD992010/\$file/RD99.pdf.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Legislative Services	<p>The Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education is mandated by Code Section 30-198 to recommend an integrated and coordinated multi-agency approach for delivery of quality career and technical education (CTE) programs and services in public schools.</p> <p>The legislative Council has as its powers and duties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the coordination of public school career and technical services, workforce training programs, and efforts among Commonwealth agencies and institutions; • Receive information and advice from state agencies, authorities and other organizations addressing CTE and workforce development as necessary; • Recommend policies, legislation, and funding that are needed to support CTE in the Commonwealth; and • Promote public-private partnerships and collaboration for CTE programs throughout the Commonwealth. <p>The Council, which is scheduled to expire July 1, 2012, is an 18-member body comprised of three Senate and five House of Delegates members, four gubernatorial appointees and ex-officio members from the Secretariats.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Delegate Peace serves on the Council.</p>	<p>The Council is directed by Code to submit its recommendations annually to the Governor and the General Assembly. The 2009 and 2010 Reports are currently not published.</p> <p>The Council has not announced meetings for 2011.</p>
Virginia Commonwealth University	<p>Virginia, through Virginia Commonwealth University, has joined 24 states and the District of Columbia to conduct Family Impact Seminars. These are a non-partisan, research-based seminar series designed to highlight the implications that public issues, policies or programs have for families. Introduced in Wisconsin in 1993, state-level seminars have proven to be an effective venue to make academically generated research findings more accessible to and more meaningful for legislators, legislative staff, Governor's office staff, and agency representatives.</p> <p>Using the national model, VCU faculty, community leaders, and a bi-partisan team of legislative members have partnered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify the most compelling and timely family related state-level problems; and ▪ sponsor topic-specific annual seminars that address these problems with solution-oriented research. <p>Commission's involvement: Event Co-sponsor; Senator Yvonne Miller, Delegate Christopher Peace, and Commission staff are Advisory Group Members.</p>	<p>The 2011 Seminar will address Employment Opportunities and Workforce Development: Policies, Programs and Strategies for Virginia's Families. The Seminar is scheduled for May 17, 2011 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the State Capitol. The Seminar will bring state legislators the expertise of nationally recognized professionals who have special knowledge through research or practice of these issues.</p> <p>The Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) is also co-sponsoring this event with VCU.</p>
Education	<p>Know How Virginia is an initiative of the Virginia Career Education Foundation, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Community College System, State Council of Higher Education, and the Virginia Employment Commission. Its long-term public awareness campaign is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inform students and their parents, teachers, and counselors of rewarding career opportunities, particularly in high-demand and emerging fields; ▪ Promote quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) in middle and high schools to support career exploration and preparation; and ▪ Ensure a larger pool of qualified, motivated applicants for Virginia businesses and industries. <p>The campaign has two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An Umbrella Campaign that provides basic information on careers, career exploration, and the benefits of CTE; ▪ Career-specific campaigns underwritten by private-sector partners seeking to cultivate greater pools of qualified candidates for specific types of jobs. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>This public-private partnership is funded in part through contributions from Virginia businesses.</p> <p>The Governor's 2010 CTE Exemplary Standards Award recipients, who are selected with assistance from the Virginia Career Education Foundation, are acknowledged on the partnership's website – www.knowhowvirginia.org. Also on the website are an overview of the program's activities and information about one-time events and ongoing programs available in each region or throughout the state. Information is also provided on career fairs, student organization events, and numerous other career building opportunities.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>The Commission on Civics Education was created in 2005 as an advisory committee in the executive branch. It is comprised of 23 members including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislators, executive branch officials and citizens. The 2008 General Assembly Session extended the sunset provision of the Commission to July 1, 2010.</p> <p>Advisory committee goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further the education of students on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy; ▪ Promote the study of State and local government among the citizens; and ▪ Enhance communication and collaboration among organizations that conduct civic education programs. <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Chair of the Commission on Civics Education is directed to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The 2009 and 2010 Reports have not been published by the Division of Legislative Automated Systems.</p> <p>The Commission hosted a one-day Civics Summit on November 8, 2010 at the State Capitol for division personnel and teachers who work with students in Civics and Economics and Virginia and United States Government. Summit objectives were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide new content information related to civics education by recognized experts; • explain what materials are available to support the <i>History and Social Science Standards of Learning</i> • encourage responsible citizenship through participation in civic-related activities. <p>The Commission provided school divisions with a live Web stream of the Civics Summit via the General Assembly website at http://legis.virginia.gov.</p>
Education	<p>The Department of Education (DOE) has begun a comprehensive Strategic Planning Process. While the current plan is in place until 2012, the Board of Education set its vision, mission, and plan of action for the next several years. By working with many partners, the Board intends to move Virginia's education system dramatically forward, fostering the development of a 21st Century skills pipeline that will prepare today's students to be tomorrow's working adults.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Committee Member</p>	<p>Greg Brittingham from Virginia Commonwealth University is facilitating the process and will write the Plan document.</p> <p>The Committee convened in December to begin the discussion on the "BRIDGE Grant" initiative. The grant is to produce a statewide Student Assistance Prevention/Intervention Plan.</p> <p>The Committee is meeting April 4 and May 23, 2011.</p>
Education	<p>The Virginia Board of Education is the nine-member governing and policy-making body for the Virginia system of public elementary and secondary education. Its work touches all facets of education from accountability and evaluation to curriculum and teacher education.</p> <p>The Board's members are appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Members are appointed to serve a term of four years, with no member appointed to more than two consecutive four-year terms.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Board of Education meets monthly. The Board posts an on-site video of highlights of each meeting, along with agendas and background materials. These are available at www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/index.shtml.</p> <p>On April 27, 2011, the Board's Planning session addressed updates on STEM, highlights of the Department's Strategic Plan and the assessment of the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs). At its regularly-scheduled business session on April 28, agenda items included a review of the proposed regulations governing career and technical education (CTE) and recommendations from the Board's Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure.</p> <p>Other 2011 meeting dates are May 19, June 23, July 28, September 22, October 27, and November 17.</p>

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>On March 18, 2010, the Virginia Board of Education considered a draft of the Economics and Personal Finance Curriculum Framework. This document is being reviewed to reflect the new Economics and Personal Finance Standards of Learning adopted by the Virginia Board of Education on November 17, 2009. The Standards of Learning at the top of each page have already been approved by the Board of Education. The curriculum framework is intended to further explain these standards.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Board conducted its first review of the curriculum and received public comment on the draft from March 10 to April 23, 2010. The enactment of this requirement was delayed to apply to students entering ninth grade in fall 2011. One standard unit of credit in Economics and Personal Finance is required for graduation with a Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies or Advanced Technical Diploma. Students may earn this credit by successfully completing the course at any time during their high school career. Students with disabilities seeking a Modified Standard Diploma may use the course to satisfy one of the three required mathematics credits.</p> <p>To prepare school personnel about this requirement, the Virginia Department of Education (DOE) has posted to their website information about the curriculum framework, the courses which satisfy the requirements, the teachers eligible to teach the course, and the industry certification test.</p> <p>Further information is available at www.doe.virginia.gov.</p>
Education	<p>The Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a standing committee of the Board of Education and is comprised of educators and representatives from the private sector.</p> <p>In partnership with the Virginia Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education Services, the 14-member Committee each year recognizes the outstanding work of one business/industry partnership and one advisory council/committee for each of the eight Superintendent's Regions.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Committee has discussed the Perkins Performance Standards requiring CTE completers to have industry certifications. The results from the 2009-2010 school year were shared with the Committee. The goal of participation is 50%. The Committee also discussed Certification for the new Economics and Personal Finance course. The Workplace Readiness Skills (WRS), an approved credential in CTE. The WRS have recently been improved and their number has increased from 13 to 21. A WRS assessment was proposed for approval to the State Board in January and is to be available for use by April 1.</p> <p>Upcoming meetings are April 27, 2011 and June 16, 2011.</p>
Education	<p>The Department of Education (DOE) administers the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B) program funded through grants authorized under Title IV. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B) program supports the creation of opportunities for academic enrichment during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and mathematics; offers students enrichment activities that complement regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.</p> <p>Through a competitive process, DOE funds projects that provide significant expanded learning opportunities for children and youth, and that will assist students to meet or exceed state and local standards in core academic subjects.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>DOE hosted a Statewide Grantee Institute on March 1-2, 2011 in Richmond. Conference material may be found at www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/title4/part_b/index.shtml.</p> <p>All 21st CCLC grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Applications must be delivered to DOE by 4 p.m., Friday, May 6, 2011.</p> <p>DOE will give priority to applications that meet any or all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint applications between at least one school division and at least one public or private community organization; • Proposals to serve students in schools that failed to meet state and or federal accountability standards during the 2010-2011 school year; • Proposals to serve students in middle or high schools; or • Proposals to serve students who attend schools with free and reduced-price lunch eligibility of 75 percent or greater.

EDUCATION (continued)

Lead Agency	Description	Status
Education	<p>High Schools That Work (HSTW) was originally created in 1987 by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in partnership with an 11-state consortium, including Virginia. HSTW is the nation's first large-scale initiative to emphasize a program of study that includes both academic courses and modern career and technical studies to prepare students for a broad career field and further education.</p> <p>The HSTW initiative is a comprehensive approach to school improvement that complements the state's educational goals. As a research and assessment-based reform initiative, HSTW is guided by a framework of goals, key practices, and key conditions to improve school practices, instruction, and student achievement. The HSTW vision requires its stakeholders (administrators, faculty and staff, parents, leaders of community/civic organizations, representatives of business/ industry, and postsecondary education) to rethink school routines.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>Of the 1,200 HSTW sites nationally, Virginia has 28. Virginia is also one of 26 states participating in the Southern Regional Education Board's National HSTW Network.</p> <p>Information about HCTW is available at www.doe.virginia.gov.</p>
Education	<p>The 12-member Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Education represents and serves the students of Virginia by acting as a liaison between students and the board, understanding and voicing the concerns and issues facing students, giving a fresh perspective to the board members, and providing a collective voice to provide feasible solutions.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Committee meets three times a year with two meetings coinciding with regularly scheduled board meetings. The Committee includes high school students from each of the Department of Education's eight administrative regions and four middle school students selected at-large.</p> <p>The Committee has not met since 2009.</p>
Education	<p>Project HOPE is Virginia's program for the education of Homeless Children and Youth. The College of William and Mary administers the program for the Department of Education. Funding is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Title X, Part C of the <i>No Child Left Behind Act</i> (P.O. 107-110).</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The program is monitoring the impact of mortgage foreclosure, increases in food prices and other economic issues on homeless children and youth.</p>
Criminal Justice Services	<p>The Virginia Center for School Safety (VCSS) of the Department of Criminal Justice Services is a resource and training center for information and research about national and statewide school safety efforts and reflects Virginia's commitment to providing safe and productive learning environments.</p> <p>Through the VCSS, schools and communities have access to proactive trainings, topical resources, public-private partnerships, data collection and evaluation.</p> <p>Commission's involvement: Tracking</p>	<p>The Department of Criminal Justice Services uses the Center's webpage — www.dcjs.virginia.gov/vcss — to publicize training events and certification opportunities. There is also an extensive resource list for individuals involved in school safety efforts.</p> <p>The VCCS has held three trainings on Autism Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers thus far in 2011: April 6 (Chesterfield), April 13 (Chantilly), and April 27 (Abingdon).</p>



VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

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